world gasp, a leading:

ne could be 10 mms m

re above its curates

te of between \$25.00ai

ರಂದ ಪರ್ವಾ Poles dos

te more than most, And

of men in the credit white have had examined the same of the same anese expect sex on the date. Playboy said most are worried about set er cent in Brazil. 81 pg
er cent in Brazil.
in France. 8 per cents
in France. in France. Sper cents in France. Sper cents in the see. The rest cent in the see. The per cents and 70 per cents and 50 per cents of whom he seemed of whom he seemed cents with only one particles previous year, are less previous year, and are less previous year, are less previous year, are les and countried in

Team heads for Washington meeting

AMMAN (Petra) - A Jordanian delegation left Amman for Washington Saturday to take part in a meeting scheduled to open their. Toesday to discuss mechanisms to establish a Mideast development bank in implementation of recommendations issued by the Casablanca economic summit last October and to pave the by the Casadianica economic summit has a octooer and to pave the ground for holding the Amman economic summit in April. Jordan's delegation is headed by Jawad Al Anani, an economic expert and information minister in the outgoing government of prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali. Minister of Finance in the outgoing government Sami Gammoh said the meeting, convened a marican President Rill Clinton's request will define outgoing government sami Gammon said the meeting, convened upon American President Bill Clinton's request, will define contributions by countries and international bodies in the proposed bank and the projects to be financed by the bank in the countries of the region, including Jordan. Mr. Gammon stressed Jordan's keenness to speed up the process of establishing the bank, which he said was originally Jordan's idea.



PFLP claims 'revenge' killing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said Saturday it carried out the killing of a Jewish settler on the occupied West Bank to avenge four Palestinians slain carlier in the week. The woman aged 20 died and another settler was wounded when assailants opened fire as they overtook the Israelis' car on a busy road in the Ramallah area on Friday. The PFLP carried out the attack to avenge the killing of four Palestinians by an Israeli army undercover unit in the same area two days earlier, a member of the group told AFP by telephone, According to military sources, two members of the PFLP, which is opposed to Israel's autonomy deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), were among the dead. Human rights organisation Amnesty International has urged an inquiry into the killing of four Palestinians, saying it looked like an inquiry into the killing of four Palestinians, saying it looked like an execution by Israeli undercover agents. "Any undercover unit should be given clear instructions not to commit extrajudicial executions," an Amnesty statement said.

Volume 19 Number 5812

AMMAN SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1995, SHAABAN 7, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

King formally names Sharif Zeid as premier

Letter of designation outlines priorities that await next government King defines cabinet tasks as ensuring respect for the law, independence of judiciary and coordination with Parliament, enhancing political pluralism, tackling poverty, unemployment, implementing economic and administrative reforms, and preparing Jordan to meet era of peace External relations should be built on mutual respect and national interests

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Ensuring the rule of the law and independence of the judiciary, working in close coordination with the legislature, enhancing political pluralism and preparing Jordan to meet the requirements of the era of peace should be the priorities of the new government, His Majesty King Hussein told Prime Minister-designate Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on

In a letter of designation he sent to Sharif Zeid, who will succeed Abdul Salam Majali, the King outlined the task that awaits the former chief of the Royal Court and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces in his capacity as prime minister.

Addressing the problem of poverty and unemployment among Jordanians is an issue of high concern to the country and it should be tackled through well-founded approaches based on pooling of national resources and optimisation of use of the resources while ensuring so-cial justice, the King told Sharif Zeid.

Zeid, whom he described as



"the right man on whom one can depend whenever the nation required your services," to reorganise and modernise all wings of the Armed Forces, which play a crucial role in safeguarding the democratic march of the

The government should work on implementing administrative reforms and set up new state institutions that serve the national objectives of development with the full The King called on Sharif participation of the private sector in conjuncture with the public sector, said the King in the letter.

The government should seek to upgrade and expand the country's infrastructure to facilitate the development of all sectors of the economy and ensure that the citizens receive the proper level of services in all areas, the King instructed Sharif Zeid.

Close attention should be given to vocational training so that the country's unemployed youth could be absorbed to meet the national requirements of the labour market and replace foreign workers whose number is growing to unacceptable proportions in the country, the King said. The fleet of Royal Jorda-

nian, the national carrier, should be consolidated and modernised and the services of the airline should reflect its status as the national symbol, the King said. The information media

should reflect the positive image of Jordan and its achievements since the Kingdom would come under closer international scrutiny in the era of peace, the King said. The government should uphold the right to freedom of expression, speech and

opinion as the basic pillars of

Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker

the society, but reject any move by anybody to use these freedoms to undermine the democratic march of the country, the King said.

On the external front, the King said, the new government should work on building Jordan's relations with all countries on the basis ofmutual respect and national

The King reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to supporting the Palestinian peo-

(Continued on page 7)

Premier-designate to announce cabinet today

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday officially designated Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to form the new government and sources said the new cabinet will be announced today.

In his letter of designation, King Hussein said the Kingdom was entering a new era which requires the pooling of resources and the consolidation of efforts in order to continue the process of nation building in a way that would guarantee social justice, tolerance, pluralism as well as economic and administrative reforms.

"I entrust you with forming the government... which we hope would be able, through the qualified persons you would choose for it, to shoulder the grave responsibilities and face the challenges" confronting the country, King Hussein told Sharif Zeid. In the forefront of these responsibilities, the King said, are asserting the sovereignty of law, maintaining security and stability and consolidating the democratic march in an atmosphere of pluralism, openness and

national unity.

Addressing Sharif Zeid as the man who could be relied upon, the King said the new era requires the continuation of the process of building the state of institutions through modernising legislation, re-forming administration and putting the interests of the state above all other considerations.

King Hussein also said that the Kingdom would work towards consolidating peace with Israel which he described as the right of future generations, adding that the Kingdom would continue to seek a comprehensive peace

Arab reconciliation, he said, is an objective which Jordan has always sought to achieve for the benefit of the whole nation (see full translated text of the letter of

Meanwhile, Sharif Zeid continued consultations over the composition of his Cabinet, with most of the day spent on discussions with parliamentary blocs and independent lawmakers.

designation).

In a meeting with repre-sentatives of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), Sharif Zeid discussed the requirements of the era through which the Kingdom is passing and the need to unite efforts in order to face the challenges facing the country, IAF sources

The sources said the prime minister-designate did not directly discuss the participation of IAF lawmakers in his Cabinet during the meeting the Muslim Brotherhood Abdul Majeed Thneibat, Deputy Abdul Rahim Ukour (Irbid), and a former minister of health, Adnan Al Jaljouli.

Informed sources, however, said that Sharif Zeid would be willing to offer the IAF up to the portfolios that could include the ministries of parliamentary affairs and

LAF sources told the Jordan Times the IAF's decision to enter the Cabinet or not will have to be made by the leadership of the party among strong indications that the group would join the government if it is offered portfolios that correspond with its weight in Parliament and on the street.

"If we decided to join-the government, we will choose the portfolios through which

(Continued on page 7)

Iran warns against attack

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran on Saturday warned that it would retaliate if Israel attacked its nuclear facilities, Iran's official news agency

IRNA reported. IRNA was reacting to a New York Times report that quoted Israeli officials saying the Jewish state could be forced to consider attacking Iran's nuclear reactors if it does not stop its nuclear ргоргатте.

"Israel was dead wrong in making such claims if it thought it had the capability to carry out its threats with no fear of reprisal," said a statement issued by Iran's mission at the United Nations, in New York, quoted by IRNA.

The statement renewed Iran's assertion that it has peaceful designs for its nuclear programme, saying Iran is a signatory of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

"Iran simply does not have the ambition to become a nuclear weapon state. Iran does not, and will not, in light of its own interest, engage in a nuclear weapon program-

"As a matter of national policy, Iran has denounced nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruc-

tion," the statement added. The New York Times, quoting U.S. and Israeli officials, said Iran could be five years away from building a nuclear weapon, and quoted unidentified Israeli officials saying that Iran's nuclear programme was the most serious threat facing their coun-

Israel's jet fighters bombed an Iraqi nuclear reactor in

Israel, which did not sign the NPT, has neither confirmed nor denied reports saying it possesses more than 100 nuclear warheads.

Russian general killed, but Grozny under blitz

Chechens fear fall of their capital; Western voices of alarm mount

GROZNY (Agencies) — Chechen fighters Saturday killed a Russian general — their highest ranking victim so far in the month-long conflict with Moscow — but appeared to be coming to terms with the possibility that their capital Grozny might

fall ponetheless. Intense Russian artillery fire and air raids left the Chechen presidential palace in flames Saturday as Moscow escalated its assault on

the city. The intensity of the artillery fire was unprecedented in the month-old intervention by Moscow's troops and forced secessionist fighters to fall back around the pres-

idential building.

A Russian jet fired two rockets on the city centre and two others to the east of Grozny at around 11:30 a.m. (0830 GMT) despite Russian President Boris Yeltsin's insistence Friday that all aerial bombing of the city had been halted on his orders.

Russian heavy artillery also again hit residential areas, Moscow Echo radio reported, with artillery and Grad rockets blasting areas in the north and northeast of

According to the Interfax news agency in Moscow, quoting an Interior Ministry spokesman, Major General Viktor Vorobiov, of the In-

killed in Grozny and two other senior officers were seriously wounded when a mine exploded next to them. The men were on a mission

"disarm armed bandit formations," interfax said. As shells flew in Grozny, Muscovites got into the spirit of orthodox Christmas, dancing and clapping at an openair concert but worries about Russia's attempt to crush

Chechenya clouded the fes-"It's a shame that now,

when we have a chance to openly celebrate, Russians are dying in Grozny," said (Continued on page 7)

Storm erupts over PLO's role in Labour election win

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A political storm erupted in added. Israel on Saturday over a report that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) coordinated with the Labour party to secure its victory at the last elections in 1992.

Basing its report on a book by PLO official Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), Israel Radio said the organisation made several pledges to Labour at secret meetings before the polls.

But Ahmad Tibi, advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, immediately denied the account at a hurriedly convened press conference in East Jerusalem saying it was "completely baseless."

"The PLO has never intervened in favour of the. Labour Party in these elections and rejects the accusations of interference in Israeli affairs, made by parties

The radio said the PLO had agreed to block progress at the bilateral Israel-PLO talks in Washington while avoiding mention of the Jerusalem issue or the final status of the Israeli-occupied territories, according to the book.

"The Road to Oslo." It added the PLO also called on the Israeli-Arab electorate to vote for Labour but agreed not to publicise its support so as not to harm the party's chances.

But Dr. Tibi said he was "astonished" by the "artificial storm" whipped up by from the book.

the radio over the extracts He admitted, however, that minutes of contacts between the PLO and Labour had been inserted into a reissue of the book in Beirut and

would be removed in the next

The right-wing opposition Likud bloc immediately launched a scathing attack on Labour and demanded police open a criminal inquiry, accusing it of "connivance with the enemy to topple a legally-elected government." Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu charged Labour

was guilty of "one of the gravest swindles in the country's history," while his predecessor and former premier, Yitzhak Shamir, accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of "treason." Likud said it would call a

top-level meeting of its officials on Sunday to discuss the affair and demanded a parliamentary inquiry. Health Minister Ephraim Sneh, who according to the

radio led the secret contacts (Continued on page 7)

Iraq hails closer ties with Paris

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Saturday hailed France's decision to open an interests section in Baghdad and condemned what it called the "arrogant" U.S. and British criticism of the move.

A senior official of the ruling Baath Party, Saad Kassem Hammudi, told AFP that their reaction was "devoid of any legal basis and morally unjustified and shows the arrogance of the two coun-

France decided Friday during a visit by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz to open "very soon" an interests section at the Romanian embassy in Baghdad.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the opening of an interests section was "a technical measure which allows us to settle practical questions linked to the break in diplomatic relations with Iraq," since early 1991.

But Iraq had to comply with all U.N. resolutions imposed on Baghdad since the

end of the January-February 1991 war, he warned. The decision was hailed by the Iraqi media on Saturday which splashed it across front pages, while the television broadcast pictures and com-mentary on Mr. Aziz's visit to

The U.N. Security Council is due next week to hold its regular two-month review of the sanctions imposed on Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

France, China and Russia have led calls for an easing of the sanctions which have crippled the Iraqi economy, saying Baghdad has made progress in complying with U.N. resolutions notably on

disarmament. But the United States and Britain have strongly opposed any lifting of the sanctions until all U.N. demands are met.

Mr. Hammudi called on other European countries to

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday receives Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou and his wife Dimitra Liani-Papandreou at the Hashemiyeh Palace (Petra photo)

King, Papandreou call for enhanced Jordan-Greece ties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou held talks Saturday on Jordanian-Greek relations in all fields and means to enhance cooperation in economy and culture.

Mr. Papandreou, 75, underwent a scheduled medical check-up at the King Hussein Medical Centre, according to sources quoted by international news agencies. Contacted by the Jordan

The audience came after

Times, the Greek embassy referred all questions related to the prime minister's stay here to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Jordan News Agency.

Petra, said that during the meeting at the Hashemiyeh Palace, the King briefed Mr. Papandreou on the situation in the Middle East and Jordan's efforts to achieve just. comprehensive and durable peace in the region.

The King also outlined Jordan's endeavours to have all parties to the Middle East conflict achieve peace, openfuture in the region.

Discussing the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26, the King noted that the treaty had restored the Kingdom's territorial and water rights. Petra said.

The agency quoted the Greek prime minister as paying tribute to the King's leadership and his efforts over the decades to achieve peace and stability in the region. He also praised Jordanian-Greek relations and called for enhancing

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh Ben Al Hussein, the King's political advisor Marwan Al Qassem and members of the delegation accompanying Mr. Papandreou.

The Greek prime minister and his wife Dimitra Liani-Papandreou and the delega-

tion arrived here Friday. Meanwhile. controversy surrounded the reports that Mr. Papandreou had undergone a medical check-up

while in Amman. The AFP quoted Jordanian medical source, declining to be named, said the tests

ing the door for a better, showed the prime minister's health was "satisfactory."

But Telemachos Xitiris, a Greek deputy information minister accompanying the premier, denied Mr. Papandreou had a check-up. The report was "totally unfounded," he said.

Then prime minister was admitted to the cardiology centre of the Al Hussein Medical Centre for a "routine check-up" which was on the programme of his visit, diplomats quoted by news agencies said.

Mr. Papandreou's office had asked the Jordanian authorities on Dec. 27 to arrange the examination at the cardiology centre, one of the best in the Middle East, informed sources were quoted as saying.

They said his office wanted to keep the check-up secret and so opted for Amman rather than London, where he underwent a triple heart by-pass operation in 1989.

Health Minister Dimitris Kremastinos, who is also Mr. Papandreou's personal physician, said the reports were part of a "political destabi-

2 Home & Middle East News

Russia said delaying deal on ending arms to Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — Russia is dragging its feet on completing an agreement reached by Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin last year under which Moscow would end arms sales to Iran, senior U.S. officials say.

The issue is expected to be raised by Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he meets his Russian counterpart in Geneva on Jan. 17

But the crisis in the breakaway Russian region of Chechenya is likely to inter-fere with any quick resolution, one senior U.S. official said in an interview.

"I think all of this complicates the kinds of steps that Yeltsin and (Prime Minister Viktor) Chernomyrdin and (Foreign Minister Andrei) Kozyrev were trying to take in terms of bringing their policies into conformity with those of the other countries," the official said of the fighting between the Russian army

and Chechen rebels. After his summit with Mr. Clinton in Washington last September, Mr. Yeltsin publicly acknowledged a private commitment to end future arms sales to Iran, which the United States considers a sponsor of terrorism and has

But Mr. Yeltsin asserted he would still carry out the terms of a 1988 weapons deal with Iran, arguing that Russia, as a "respectable, great power cannot fail to honour this contract."

U.S. officials, having little other choice, acceded to this compromise. But in the past three months there has been little progress in bringing the agreement to completion, even though Mr. Yeltsin said he hoped it would be done

One official said that Moscow has failed to disclose critical details of past contracts with Iran and "until we know what's in those past contracts we don't have a final resolution."

What if it (remaining contract obligations) were billions of dollars. That's not really much of a deal," he

The administration wants to know the exact amount of weapons still to be transferred to Iran and a date by which the transfers will be completed.

The difficulty in obtaining this information suggests that even though Mr. Yeltsin has publicly promised to halt arms sales to Iran "there's probably still a debate going on (in Moscow) as to whether this was the right thing for the Russians to do," the official

The lead officials on this matter are Vice President Al Gore and Mr. Chernomyrdin but Under Secretary of State Lynn Davis also had talks in Moscow last month. Mr. Thristopher will discuss a

arms sales to Iran - when he meets Mr. Kozyrev in Geneva this month.

With the end of the cold war and the Soviet Union's collapse, Russia's international arms sales business has plummeted, leaving Iran one of the former superpower's only weapons clients. In recent years, Russian

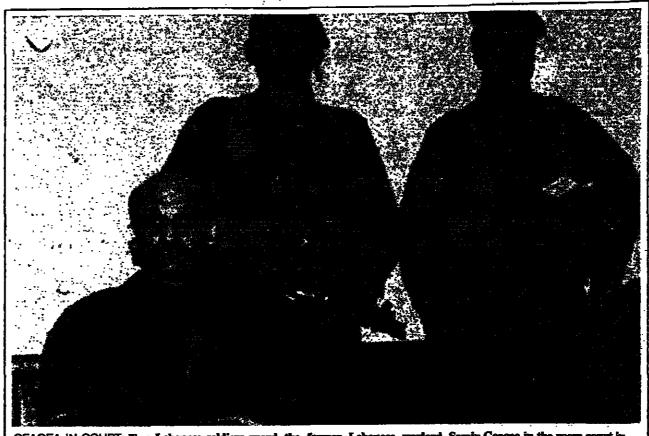
sales to Tehran have included advanced MiG-29 and Sukhoi SU-24 warplanes, T-72 tanks and two diesel-powered Kiloclass submarines.

The United States has barred Russia from becoming a founding member of a new export control body unless it halts arms sales to Iran. Other leading countries in

the group - Britain, France and Germany — wanted to admit Russia right away and have resisted implementing the control plan before Russia became a party, U.S. officials said.

James Woolsey, before his resignation as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, recently predicted that Iran could possess a nuclear bomb in eight to 10 years or sooner if it received significant foreign assistance.

The New York Times said on Thursday that American and Israeli officials believe Iran is much closer to producing an atomic weapons than previously thought, maybe less than five years.



GEAGEA IN COURT: Two Lebanese soldiers guard the former Lebanese warlord Samir Geagea in the room court in Beirut during his trial for assassination of Christian leader Dani Chamoum and his family (see page 12) (AFP Photo)

Saudi under death sentence in Jordan held in U.S., seeks review of his case

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Saudi Arabian national sentenced to death in absentia in a subversion case in Jordan and now in U.S. detention in an unrelated charge is seeking to present his version of the case to the judicial authorities in the Kingdom, lawyers said

Mohammad Jamal Khalifa was among 11 people who were given the death penalty after a four-month trial at the State Security Court last

Mr. Khalifa - said to be the son-in-law of Osama Ben Laden, a Saudi millionaire of Yemeni origin and allegedly the bankroller of extremist groups in several Arab countries — and two others, an Omani and a Jordanian, were handed down the sentence in

The case involved a group of people nicknamed "Arab Afghans," a reference to some of its members' background as volunteers who fought against the Soviet army in the 1980-90: war in hanistan.

The group was accused of plotting and carrying out bomb attacks in public places and planning to assassinate Jordanian and Palestinian peace negotiators with Israel. Seven of the 25 people originally charged were acquitted; 11 were given the death sentence and seven others were jailed for terms ranging be-tween 71/2 years to life impris-

Samih Husseini, a Jordanian lawyer, said he was con-tacted by a U.S. lawyer, acting on behalf of Mr. Khalifa who was arrested in San Francisco about a month ago on charges of violating American immigration laws.

Mr. Husseini said he told the lawyer that Mr. Khalifa's case could not be taken up in Jordan as long as he was not present in the Kingdom.

"Under Jordanian law, anyone convicted in absentia needs to be present in Jordan for his or her case to be reviewed," said Mr. Husseini. "Once the convict surrenders or is arrested, by Jordanian anthorities, then the verdict against him or her is automatically annulled and a retrial is ordered."

As such, Mr. Husseini said he advised his American who is travelling on a Saudi passport, present himself in Jordan and face the charges against him in a retrial. Reports in the Arabiclanguage press in Europe said Mr. Khalifa, who lived in the Philippines and ran a Muslim

religious centre there for several years, was under investigation by American lawenforcement agencies for possible links with "terrorist organisations. The formal charge against him in San Francisco, howev-

er, is of making a false statement in his visa application form that there were no criminal charges pending against him anywhere in the world. The statement was. made when he was under indictment in Jordan in the 'Arab Afghan" case, according to the report.

In the "Arab Afghans" case, it was reported that Abduliah Hashaika, said to be the mastermind behind the group, had visited the Philippines and met with Mr. Khalifa who extended him help to set up clandestine operations against the state in Jordan. It was not known whether Mr. Khalifa had ever been in Jordan.

Mr. Khalifa is reported to the Philippine government launched an investigation into the religious centre he

was running and other Muslim organisations suspected of financing Muslim dissidents waging a guerrilla war against the state.

Heads of several Muslim organisations were arrested, including at least two who hold Jordanian passports, re-ports from Manila said. Some of the arrested were released, but the precise status of the. two Jordanian passport holders was not immediately

Abdullah Khalifa, a brother of Mohammad's, is reportedly visiting Jordan to pursue the effort to have his brother face the charges in the Kingdom. He could not be reached for comment.

Sources said Jordan had not filed a request to Washington for Mr. Khalifa's extradition to the Kingdom. They said two Jordanian judges who negotiated a draft. extradition treaty with the U.S. did not discuss any case in particular with their American counterparts.

But, the sources said it was possible that Jordan might seek to bring Mr. Khalifa to oce in the Kingdom after the extradition treaty is for-malised. The formalisation of the treaty is expected soon.

Beirut: No compromise on SLA

BEIRUT (R) - The Lebanese government is determined to jail members of a pro-Israeli militia in South Lebanon when it regains control of the south. Defence Minister Mohsen Dalloul was quoted on Saturday as

'saying.
"Of course anyone dealing with the enemy is an agent and should be prosecuted," Mr. Dalloul told the Beirut daily Al Safir.

His statement was the toughest so far by a government minister on the fate of the 3;000-strong South Leba-non Army (SLA) once Israel withdraws from the south.

The SLA has helped Israeli occupation troops control a 15-kilometre wide border strip in South Lebanon since its creation in 1985. It often clashes with guerrillas trying to drive the Israelis out of Lehanon.

But independent observers in the south say the SLA is growing increasingly ineffec-tive and subject to desertions as its fighters worry about their fate when peace comes. Israel has repeatedly de-manded that Lebanon absorb the SLA into its army but Mr. Dalloul told Al Safir he had personally rejected appeals for special treatment for the

"A while back I made contacts... regarding their (the SLA's) fate and it was said that their fate is jail, without compromise," he said.

force which is recruited

among Christian and Shi'ite

Muslim inhabitants of the

They tried to make us give a promise that we would reconsider their fate, but we were adamant they are agents and there is no escape from prosecution," Mr. Dalloul

He did not indicate with whom he held the conversation but it appeared to have been either the Israelis or U.S. officials who have mediated in peace negotiations between Israel. Lebanon and

the south say the SLA's strength has dropped from about 3,800 at its peak to 2.800 due to concerns among its fighters about the future. Its growing ineffectiveness has exposed Israeli troops to increasing attacks by the Islamic resistance headed by pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party God) guerrillas who killed 21 Israeli soldiers and wounded

Independent observers in

Paris incurs allies' wrath over warming to Baghdad

PARIS (R) — France has incurred the wrath of its 1991 Gulf war allies for receiving a senior Iraqi leader for the first time since the conflict and announcing it would reestablish a diplomatic toehold in Baghdad. Foreign Minister Alain

Juppe said after a lengthy breakfast with Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz that Paris would open an interest section at the Romanian embassy in Iraq very soon. Paris's gesture drew swift

and sharp criticism from the United States, which led an international force against Iraq in the Gulf war, and The high-profile thaw be-

tween Paris and Baghdad was overshadowed by a defiant speech by President Saddam Hussein hailing the "mother of battles," as Iraq called the war in which a U.S.-led coalition drove its invasion forces out of Kuwait.

Mr. Juppe said his 80minute meeting with President Saddam's longtime right-hand man covered the situation in Iraq and Baghdad's implementation of U.N. resolutions arising from its ill-fated 1990 invasion of Kowait.

"Some progress has been made over the past months, more remains to be done, Mr. Juppe, who previously met Mr. Aziz in New York four months ago, told repor-

Reacting to the announcement of the interest section, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said: "We do not believe that this is a timely action. We don't consider the particular decision to be helpful

or constructive." The United States is the only major Western country with an interest section in Baghdad.



Iraqi Vice-Prime. Minister Tareq Aziz (left) listens as French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe speaks with reporters in Paris oz Friday (AFP photo)

In London, a British Fore- the elimination of its mass France, which has just taken over the presidency of the European Union: "No other member state has reestablished in Baghdad in this

We remain very suspicious of the Iraqi regime's intentions in the wake of the events last October. It is not the moment to relax pressure on Iraq to comply fully with U.N. requirements," he said.

France advocates a gradual easing of the U.N. oil embargo to reward Iraq for recognising Kuwait's borders and complying with disarmament resolutions. But Mr. Juppe was cagey about prospects of a move to ease sanctions when the Security Council reviews the issue later this menth.

He endorsed Mr. Aziz's call for a "legalistic implementation" of the resolutions and said France wanted to break the deadlock. "A deadlocked situation

does not benefit anyone. We must move forward," he said. The Security Council is due to review in January, March and April reports of the U.N.

Special Commission supervis-

ing Baghdad's compliance

with resolutions demanding

Mr. Aziz said Iraq was cooperating fully with the

U.N. Special Commission. "But the Security Council must in return make a positive move towards... a softening of sanctions against Iraq in keeping with a fair and legalistic interpretation of the council's resolutions," he

He called the council's interpretation of the resolutions as "abusive and arbitrary", adding: "Iraq's legiti-mate rights must be respected in keeping with the text of the resolutions and the rules of international law."

Mr. Aziz welcomed the opening of a French diplomatic mission in Baghdad as making it easier to discuss bilateral questions and the implementation of U.N. resolutions. Iraq already has an interest section in Paris.

France was one of Irag's major arms suppliers and trading partners during the 1980s and is still owed an estimated several billion dollars by Baghdad.

Iran chief-of-staff rules out sabotage in air crash

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's chief-of-staff was quoted on Saturday as saying a plane crash which killed Iran's air force commander along with four generals was caused by a technical failure, ruling out

sabotage. General Ali Shahbazi told Salam newspaper: "It is completely clear to us that the plane crash was solely caused by technical failure. But as usual, the experts were dispatched to the site for precise review of the case."

Tehran Radio on Friday said the plane carrying air force commander, Brigadier General Mansour Sattari, and his senior aides crashed on Thursday night when it tried to land at Isfahan in central Iran after developing technical problems.

Mr. Juppe was cautious not to appear too friendly to Mr. Aziz, only shaking his hand out of view of television Gen. Shahbazi told the radio on Friday that the officers had taken off in a Lockheed C-140 Jetstar from Isfahan's Shahid Babaei air base for a destination he did not

Local newspapers said on Saturday that at about 2,000 feet altitude the aircraft reported a change in cabin air pressure and requested an emergency landing back at

"In trying to do so the technical failure developed and the plane caught fire and crashed." Salam newspaper said. When asked why so many

The plane crash was the

second since Iran's 1979 Isla-

senior officers were on the same plane despite "past bitter experience," Gen. Shabazi said: "The reason is only efforts on the part of officials Other victims of the crash in saving facilities."

mic revolution to cause the death of an air force chief and senior officers. The Iranian army meanwhile opened an investigation

into the latest plane crash.

Although "technical diffi-culty" has been cited as the cause of the crash, the authorities sent a team of experts to the scene. The plane was on a flight

from Isfahan to Tehran, but it turned back shortly after take-off because of "technical difficulties," the official Iranian news agency IRNA

IRNA said Friday that the plane had caught fire before crash-landing.

Before the crash, Sattari and his aides took part in a gathering of army commanders in the southern island of Kish, IRNA said. On their way to Tehran, they decided to attend a ceremony for air

force pilots at the base. They left for the capital two hours later and when the plane reached an altitude of 2,000 feet, the pilot noticed 'changes" inside the cockpit and tried to make an

emergency landing. Political observers said the incident had dealt a severe blow to the Iranian military devastating the top ranks of the air force, already badly damaged during the 1980-1988 war against Iraq.

The bodies of the victims

were transferred to Tehran on Friday and a funeral is to be held Sunday in front of an air force base in the capital. They are to be buried at Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery in southern Tehran after prayers at the nearby asoleum of the founder of the Islamic republic, Ayatol-

lah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Sattari, who served in the

fore the 1979 revolution, commanded Iran's air defences in the war with Iraq The air force commander

scores during 1994.

visited the former Soviet Union. China and North Korea where he signed large contracts to buy military equip-ment, including MiG-29 air-Craft.

Gen. Hassan Firouz-Abadi, chief of staff for Iran's armed forces, presented his condolences to Iran's leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iran's IRNA news agency. named the four brigadier generals killed along with Sattari as: Chief of Air Force Staff Alireza Yassini, Deputy Commander for Operations Mostafa Ardestani, head of the engineering department Ahmad Shojaei, and head of the controller department Hassan Razzagi.

HIJAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

LEVON			
17:90			
17:30	Que I	Miell عـ	ver Gagne
18:99			Montagne
18:90 18:30		Les	Intropides
19:00		. News	In French
19:15			
19:30			
20:15	•••••	The Ai	haira Show
21:00			
21:30			
22:90			
		IJEM2	m casimo
22:20		_	
Feature	film:	"One	Woman's

05:10 06:32 11:40

PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifleh, Tel. 810740 Agreemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

De la Saile Church Tel. 661757 Terraspacia Church Tel: 622366 Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. Catholic Church Tel. 771331. en Orthodex Church Tel. St. Ephratu Charch Tel. 771751.
Amman International Charch Tel. 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328. gregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Seints Tel. 654932

Access Tel. 811295 WEATHER

Courch of Naz

lazarene Tel.67569). Ical Local Charch

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

drop sightly with clouds appearing at different altitudes and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate

Yesterday's high temperatures. Amman 15, Aqaba 22 Humidity readings: Amman 54 per cent,

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN: Dr. Hisham Kan'an . Jamal Joarab Walid Masn Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad Al Asa 637055 lairoukh pharmac Yacomb obarmacy 623672 RED: Dr. Ahmad Qanu Dr. Raoda Shahin

EHERGENCIES

were two colonels, a major, a

captain and three lieutenants.

POOG CORROL CREETE 03/111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
KENCOE FORGE 172, 021111, 03////
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
CURRENCE
Amman Municipality
Complaints
Telephone information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Decrie 671M
Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Aboan relephone Repairs 001161
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority
tarantarana unital

815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 642441/2 64236 664171/4 . 669131 Amel Hospital Zarga Govt, Hospital RMD:

. 666127/37 664164/6 07:45 . 891611/15

69-S 18:15 (09)983323 20±15 (09)900560 (09)986732 18:16 19:15 19:35 (02)27205 (02)2471**00** 19:45 . (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA**

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (105)32205-5, where it should always be veri-APPIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ)

> Dunascus (RJ)
> Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) ick, Paris (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1)

Aqaba (RJ) Beirut (RJ) ankfurt (RJ) Vicina (RJ) Aqaba, Vies n, New York (RJ) Amste 15:15 20:00 20:15 20:30 20:45 21:25 22:00 22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (R.) 67:10 Rouse (AZ) Beirut (ME) Muscat (GF)

um ... 8:00 a.m. every Meischy ucus 5:00 p.m.-every Menday ucus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday u. ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday MARKET PRICES 280/150 290Y 700 320/ 350 Grape Freit 240 / 140 150 / 120

300/ 200

540 / 300

320/ 200

260/ 180 850 / 600

350/ 280

eirut: No

, JANUARY 8, 198

TRUT (R) sanese government is a sined to jail member of infinitia in some infinitia in some infinition when it regains. -Israeli minita in Sociation when it regains on of the South Delay isser Mohsen Dalloul a steed on Saturday to Of course anyone deal The enemy is an and should be prosecuted.
Dailout told the Bent

ils statement was the these so far by a good. It minister on the law. Army (SLA) once last idraws from the some he SLA has helped int stromerse wide pole 3 in South Lebanon se reasion in 1935. It of ביים מונה בשבי הוא ישבי ל inve the loraelis on er independent observation in servation in servation in the SLAT wing increasingly meta-

and subject to describe של יחופה בים: בבי בב Title when prace comiged that Tabancu apar ST A 1710 1's army but h on to d Al Safir he let onal rejected appearance treatment for the 2 which is recruite ing Comstian and She inhabitiants of & spacion come A while there I made on s... regarding then the their fate is juil, without and said The these to make a The state of the state of mer der inem fate burg a e germine a se als ste sale at a care and a serve on A intere in the estate ing

on the district the districts 200 to appresses to be exities the Israels g CONTRACTOR NAMED OF THE PARTY O im geade Tegenge: veen issue Language idenendent inkrime sauch say the \$143 rock has arrest ton In 3.860 arrest to taken E due to concernation afters of the contract S growing Tudenies exposed intuit noss rasing attach on the Me cate collection are in the collection are වුස පිල්වරාධා අ**ත**ර gramma, nen killedå grandformand komde

crash the inger the Shalles the color of the Shalles and the color of the

es dumng 1994

- Filout - - - 1920ef - La Francisi rigadie o Air Force
Degrap
Checkelous
head of eri head of

version estamated

r R =≥4"

the second of the second

Signal Sales

Agree and an IKLI AZ RATLWAY TRAIN ARKET PRICES

Some office in the per th

100 lbs 100 lbs 100 lbs 100 lbs 100 lbs 100 to 1

ompromise a SLA

Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday shakes hands with a young boy from Sweimeh village

while on a tour of a woodworks training centre

Queen visits NHF projects, beneficiaries in Sweimeh

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday visited Sweimeh village in the Jordan Valley near the town of South Shouneh where Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) operates a Quality of Life Project, intended to improve the living conditions of the local residents, in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

At the outset of the visit, the Queen met members of a local committee charged with running the project and with the project director.

The Queen listened to the types of services offered to the villagers and how these services as well as training courses help to improve the people's living conditions by sisting them in becoming self-reliant. Queen Noor was also briefed on plans for new projects in the village, also geared towards the economies and social benefit of the resi-

Later, the Queen visited the Sweimeh Health Centre and looked in on mothers and

children receiving care there. She inspected a project that trains villagers in woodworking. This project is being conducted in cooperation with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC).

The Queen visited an olive orchard and home gardens run by one of the beneficiaries of the project, and herself, planted several trees on that farm.

She also inspected the fish ponds run by local villagers and a vocational training centre where women are learning different trades including dressmaking, spinning and

rug weaving.
At the end of the visit, the Queen distributed diplomas to 50 graduates of the wood-

Queen-Noor was accompanied by In'am Mufti, advisor to the Queen for planning and development, and mem-ber of the NHF Board of Trustees as well as local offi-

The Quality of Life Project was first initiated in Jordan in 1989 by NHF in cooperation with the World Health Organisation and the Ministry of Health. The primary objective of this pioneering and dynamic project is to improve the overall quality of life of underprivileged rural and urban communities across

In 1994, more than 2000 families in 12 villages were benefitting directly from the Quality of Life Project, which also serves indirectly about 25,000 people who live in those villages and their neighbourhoods.

The project's strategy emphasises comprehensive and integrated development that is implemented by the social preparation and consensus-building, community organisation, community financing and community manpower mobilisation and training, according

to the NHF. The Quality of Life Project responds to Jordan's development needs by training and supporting people to be-come self-reliant through grassroots community participation in the planning, management and evaluation of social and economic development schemes. This is made possible by setting up grassroots development councils, development funds

and technical support com-

mittees in each beneficiary working and dressmaking area and by organising communities into small clusters to accelerate the processes of need identification, project implementation, democratic community participation and social cohesion.

Economic schemes include home gardens, fruit orchards, goat, cow and poultry raising. fish ponds, broom and basket making, tricot knitting and sewing, textile and carpet weaving and bee-keeping.

The project will initiate small scale industries to help more beneficiaries alleviate poverty, reduce unemployment and attain self-reliance. Its efforts to promote so-

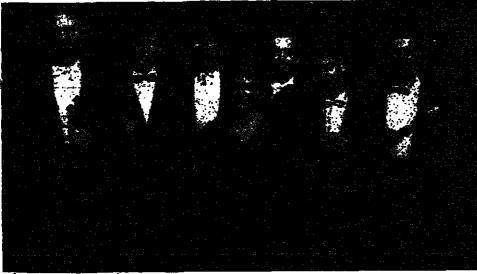
cial development span the areas of health, nutrition, education, culture, the environment, voluntary work and community participation in upgrading social services. Women's clubs are estab-

lished in villages covered by the project to encourage, train and support women to become more involved in planning, implementing and evaluating their own develop-

Kindergartens are also established or upgraded to serve pre-school children in areas where formal education is available only at the primary level.

NHF plans to introduce this project as a national model for socio-economic development. The project is already recognised by WHO as a regional training model.
In addition to funding from

the WHO, the project has been supported by the Christ-ian Children's Fund (CCF), the Spanish nongovernmental organisation "World in Harmony," the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs and private



La Camerata Köln

NMC, Goethe Institut to present Germany's La Camerata Köln

National Music Conservatory (NMC) of Noor Al Hussein Foundation in Cooperation with Goethe Institut in Amman will organise a concert featuring the German La Camerata Köln on Tuesday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), according to

an NMC statement. Virtuosity, vigor, creativity and talent are some of the paracteristics of German reusicians and ensembles, said an NMC spokesperson, adding that throughout the years German musicians have dazzled music lovers with their fascinating concerts and

AMMAN (J.T.) — The recitals of works by brilliant composers enhancing the beauty of the piece and the splendor of performance.

La Camerata Chamber Ensemble is a true representation of such established ensembles, said the spokesper-

Comprised of nine musicians playing on the harp-sichord, flute, recorder, violins, viola, cello and contrabass, the ensemble has performed in Finland, Greece, the former Yugoslavia, India, Austria, Spain, Turkey, South America and the United States, he said.

The ensemble's philosophy is to combine a knowledge of historical factors with thoroughly modern artistic standards in an attempt to integrate historical playing techniques with their spontaneity and virtuousity, the spokesperson said. The ensemble will put their philospohy into practice as they perform an illuminating programme of concertos and suites featuring pieces by Fasch, Bach and Telemann,

The performance will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

he said.

Greece, Jordan prepare for transport accord

Visiting Greek ministers discuss cooperation with counterparts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Transport Samir Kawar and Greek Minister of the Merchant Navy George Katsifaras Saturday agreed to set up a joint committee to draft details of a land and maritime transport agreement which aims at boosting trade between the two countries.

Mr. Katsifaras is among an official delegation accompanying Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou on his visit to Jordan, which began Friday.

The two ministers discussed cooperation in training personnel in maritime trade, development of ports facilities and technical and engineering matters related to ports operations with Jordan benefiting from Greece's historic experience.

Mr. Kawar and Mr. Katsifaras also discussed ways to advance trade via Aqaba seaport, prospects of shipping Jordanian goods through Greek ports to European markets and encouraging tourism on both sides.

Delegations from the two sides attended the meeting which was held at the Ministry of Transport.

Greek Foreign Minister, Carolos Papoulias, who is also accompanying Prime Minister Papandreou in Jordan, Saturday said that his country was planning to open Greek cultural centre in Amman to advance cultural and scientific relations between Jordan and Greece.

At a meeting with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan, Mr. Papoulias said that the opening of such a centre and the visit of Mr. Papandreou to Jordan reflect the great importance Athens attaches to its ties with the Kingdom.

Stressing that both countries have many areas for potential cooperation, Mr. Papoulias said that his country can immediately launch close cooperation with Jordanian tourism and trade sectors and embark on forming joint, companies.

He said Athens was interested in promoting the role and activities of the joint Jordanian-Greek economic committee to help advance Mr. Papoulias also expressed his country's readiness to increase the number of scholarships offered to Jordanian students and to engage in the exchange of visits by students and university faculty.

Noting that Greece will take part in the Amman economic conference expected in April, Mr. Papoulias said that Greece is keen to display its political and economic support for Jordan's endeavours at the European

Union. He said Greece and Jordan hold nearly identical views on regional, bilateral and international issues.

In his meeting with Mr. Hassan, the Greek minister listened to a review of Jordan's peace efforts and Jordan's appreciation of Athens' support for the Jordan-Israel peace treaty through the European Union.

In statements after the meeting, Mr. Papoulias said his talks were extremely positive and fruitful and would contribute towards furthering bilateral relations.

He voiced his country's deep appreciation of Jordan's efforts at the regional and international levels, describing his country's relations with Jordan as excellent.

Also Saturday, Greek Health Minister Dimilirus Krimasinus and Health Minister Aref Batayneh held separate meetings to discuss cooperation in health affairs.

The two sides agreed on despatching Jordanian specialists to Greece to examine that country's experiment in combating thalassemia as Jordan plans to establish its own national centre to deal with the disease.

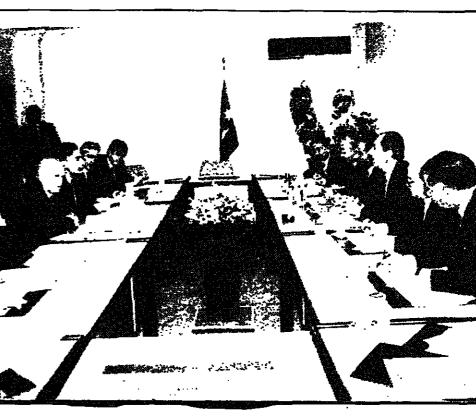
The two ministers discussed the creation of a committee to register Jordanian drugs to be marketed in Greece, similar to a procedure followed in Jordan with regard to Greek medicine sold in Jordanian markets.

They also discussed ways of combating illicit drug trafficking and ways to prevent the spread of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) and promote cooperation in primary health



Minister of Transportation Samir Kawar and visiting Greek Minister of the Merchant Navy

George Katsifaris Saturday discuss plans for a transport agreement (Petra photo)



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Papoulias Saturday review tourism and trade Hassan and Greek Foreign Minister Carolos cooperation (Petra photo)

Proposed amendments to embezzlement law to expand prosecution scope to accessories

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Proposed amendments to a law on embezzlement of public funds and misuse of public office for personal benefits are expected to expand the scope of prosecution to accessories before and after the fact and beneficiaries of the

The amendments to the 1966 law also call for reforming the present court now authorised to try cases of embezzlement and misuse of office into a completely civilian three-member tribunal headed by the president of

the court of appeals.

The panel will be appointed by the Judiciary Committee of the government as recommended by the

attorney-general or his assistants will argue cases before

The proposed changes to the legislation, now under consideration by the government, are so sweeping that commercial firms and agents who collude with any civil servants in embezzlement or stealing public money are li-able for prosecution. This would include "heirs, partners, accessories, instigators, commercial agents and brok-

As it stands now, the law now provides the legal base for trying only those accused of directly committing the crime. This loophole had allowed several commercial firms which were found to have been accessories/ collaborators before and af-

minister of justice, and the ter the fact to escape punishment in a series of embezzlement and corruption cases involving medium-level officials who were tried in the late 80s and early 90s.

The amendments also mean that if the court orders someone found guilty of embezzlement or corruption to return the amount involved then the authorities have the right to recover the money from the direct heirs of the convict provided that it is proved that the heirs had benefitted financially from the crime.

The amendments stipulate that the concerned government department should specify the amount that it seeks to be reimbursed while filing

One of the proposed

amendments refers to "violations of the rules and regulations of the Higher Committee for Purchases," newly-formed organisation — in an obvious attempt to crack down on officials involved in purchases for the state possibly accepting

The law, after the amendments are incorporated through the constitutional process, will be known as the law to protect state

bribes or commissions from

assets." The objective of the amendments is to "broaden the scope of the legislation to include cases of corruption as well as to make everyone involved liable for prosecution," said Taher Hikmat, a prominent lawyer and former

minister of justice.

The amendments, as released by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, call for the law of statute — the period in which a case of embezzlement or corruption could be brought to court after the crime is actually committed - to take effect from the date of the concerned employee leaving service rather than the date of crime.

Mr. Hikmat explained that this would mean that prosecutors could launch a case against anyone suspected of committing a crime of embezzlement, corruption or misuse of office he or she might have committed while in government service within 15 years of completion of service regardless of the date on which the crime was commit-

Arab Literacy Day will honour teachers

AMMAN (Petra) - Arab Literacy Day starts today with a ceremony at the Teachers' Club in Amman honouring teachers who have offered their services to help eradicate illiteracy.

Several students excelling in their studies at the Literacy and Adult Education Centres will be honoured during the ceremony, said Khaled Nabtiti, the head of general education at the Ministry of Education. Since the early 1950s the

ministry has opened literacy or adult education centres in areas where at least 15 people have expressed their desire to continue or resume their education, said Dr. Nabtiti.

The ministry's efforts to eliminate illiteracy in Jordan, he said, have succeeded in reducing illiteracy among people 15 years of age and above from 67.6 in 1961 to 14 per cent in 1993.

The ministry hopes to further reduce the rate of

illiteracy eight per cent by the year 2000, said Dr. Nabtiti. Noting that compulsory education in Jordan started in 1952, Dr. Nabtiti said that six years of primary education were required for children, but in 1964 a new law raised the requirement to nine years of education. .

In 1987 the National Education Conference ruled that the compulsory education period should be extended to 10 years.

Department of antiquities uncovers ancient building in Khirbet Buraq

AMMAN (Petra) - Following three months of excavations at Khirbet Buraq, on the road linking Taybeh Janoubieh and Wadi Mousa, teams from the Department of Antiquities have uncovered the remains of an 800square-metre building along with several artefacts including pottery and statues. according to the head of the excavation team, Suleiman Farhat Saturday,

Mr. Farhat said that the Buraq, which overlooks the ancient city of Petra, formed part of the suburbs of the main Nabatean city, noting that the water spring found at the site was one of the main sources of water for the city

Department of Antiquities Director General Ghazi

during the Nabatean era.

Bisheh told the Jordan Times that only teams from his department have been involved in the archaeological excavations at the Khirbet Buraq

He said the ancient building, whose remains were found at the site, had been used during the time of the Nabateans but was destroyed during the Byzantine and

45 Minutes Guaranteed Sweifiyeh 86 39 44 Turino FOR YOUR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS January 1995 UNEQUALLED SERVICE Unending Luxury DINE & WINE TO THE LOVELY TUNES AND SONES OF TURING MUSIC CLUB AT THE CUITAR MIGHTLY Consome Soup or Soup of the day Grilled Chicken – Med Turino Ayle with Rurich Mustard" Health" Sauce Sizaling Fillet of Boof with Mushroom, or Special Popper Sauce Grillad Fillet Hummour Fish with French Fried Fingers & Side Salad Express Lunch (45min guaranteed - in/out) * JD 8:000 All Inclusive Service & All Taxes Daily Gala Dinners * JD 9:000 All inclusive (Except Thursdays).

Excluding all Beverages & Desserts

4 World News

Treasurer of French coalition party indicted for corruption

PARIS (Agencies) — The of both his likely RPR rival with alleged illegal financing treasurer of the Republican Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac of his election campaigns, Party in France's governing right-wing coalition, Jean-Pierre Thomas, has been indicted on corruption charges over illegal party financing, a reliable source said Saturday.

Mr. Thomas, who was questioned Friday by Paris magistrate Mireille Filippini, was the first person indicted in the investigation into alleged illegal funding of the Republican Party, the second biggest faction in the government of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

Gerard Longuet, the former industry minister and a founding member of the Republican Party, was forced to resign from the cabinet in October after coming under investigation in the same case and also for allegedly underpaying for construction of a holiday residence on the Riviera.

The indictment of Mr. Thomas is a new blow for Mr. Balladur as the Republican Party is considered a key ally in his expected run for the French presidency in elections this April and May.

In addition to Mr. Longuet, two minister's from Mr. Balladur's neo-Gaullist Raily For the Republic (RPR) party, the biggest group in the coalition, have been forced to resign after being indicted for corruption.

The sources said Mr. Thomas was charged on several counts involving fraud and kickbacks, notably over what court records said was a "suspect" sum of 28 million francs (about \$5.2 million) that fed the party coffers from 1987 to

Mr. Thomas' lawyer, Bernard Bigault du Grandrut, refused to comment Satur-

day, citing court secrecy laws. Mr. Balladur, who is expected to formally announce his candidature for president later this month, has a clear lead in opinion polls, ahead

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

- The new Republican

majority and President Bill

Clinton set off on a boney-

moon this week seeking com-

mon ground and coopera-

tion, but both camps are

vying to get the most out of

this marriage of convenience.

crats Friday, a day after he

greeted Republican leaders

at the White House with

smiles and kind words for the

goals set by the first

Mr. Clinton's best hope for

turning his faltering presiden-

cy around is to win back party

members who revolted after

the election, besting the Re-

publicans in party discipline,

And his chances for that

"Traditionally Republicans

have better party unity, but

notes Mark Holt with the

Congressional Research Ser-

prefer having one party in the

White House and the other in

Congress, the November

election results could provide

an ironic windfall for Mr.

Clinton in the 1996 presiden-

The onus is also on the

Republicans now to deliver

what voters want and while

their offer of tax cuts and

deficit reduction won them

the elections, they have yet to

spell out where the necessary

The Democrats' saw that

opening Friday when they

funds will come from.

tial election.

And, as Americans tend to

that was unity as a minority,

may have actually improved

according to analysts.

with the last election

Republican-controlled Con-

gress in 40 years.

The president huddled

and all potential leftwing

But Mr. Longuet and the two other ministers forced to resign were all key supporters of Mr. Balladur over Mr. Chirac and a further weakening of the Republican Party could undermine the prime minister's campaign plans.

The Republican Party first came under investigation for alleged illegal financing last March, and the party's Paris headquarters were searched on court orders in early

The source said Saturday that Judge Filippini held off until November to indict Mr. Thomas, who is also a deputy, because the National Assembly is on holiday recess until Jan. 9 and so it was not necessary to first obtain the lifting of his parliamentary

Some of the firms named in connection with the Republican Party financing probe include COGEDIM, one of France's biggest property development companies, and the French Radiotelephone Society, SFR, a subsidiary of the Compagnie Generale des Eaux, a private utility and

communications giant.

Mr. Balladur's two other cabinet members forced to resign in recent months were former development aid minister Michel Rossin and ex-Communications Minister

Alain Carignon. Both Mr. Longuet and Mr. Roussin, who resigned in November, are under investigation for allegedly underpaying for homes they own at chic Riviera resorts. Mr. Longuet is also being probed for allegedly financing his party via an off-shore

Mr. Carignon, who is also mayor of the southeastern city of Grenoble, resigned in July. He was indicted on corruption charges in connection

lobbed their first volley with

an "honesty in budgeting

bill" that would require

financing plans for any ba-

Mr. Clinton also chal-

lenged the Republicans to

match the success of his first

two years and praised his own

party for slashing the deficit

they controlled the legisla-

the right thing, rather than the political thing, because

they believed it was more

important to make real life

easier to Americans than it

was to make political life

more comfortable for people here in Washington," he said

But Mr. Clinton, keen to

continue the camaraderie be-

gun this week, added he was

sure the Republicans "will

msy view of Republicans sug-

gests the kind of "honey-

moon period" traditionally

News survey out Friday

showed a majority backed

what they considered to be

the Republicans' goals and

said they trusted that party to

handle the big issues better

listed reducing the deficit as

the top priority for Congress

and relegated a middle class

tax cut to number four, and

they picked health care re-

form as second in import-

blamed for his party's mid-

term rout, was criticised for

Mr. Clinton, who many

Paradoxically, those polled

than the Democrats.

A Washington Post-ABC

reserved for presidents.

And for now the public's

have the same attitude.'

"The Congress chose to do

lanced budget measure.

notably through kickbacks from the awarding of Grenoble city water contacts.

The Balladur government tried last month to remove a key judge investigating alleged illegal financing of the RPR — in what was seen as an attempt to limit political fallout from the probes threatening conservative politicians ahead of the presidential election.

But Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, who is locked in a power-sharing arrangement with Mr. Balladur until the end of his mandate, intervened to seek a ruling on the matter from the country's top judicial watch-

dog body.

The move will delay any action against the judge, Eric Halphen, possibly until after the presidential election.

Mr. Mitterrand, stricken with cancer, said Friday he would serve out his last four months in office but leave without remorse or re-

In a nearly two-hour philosophical musing on the joys and limits of power, Mr. Mitterrand told a New Year press reception he was proud to have been the first Socialist ruler to endure in French history, even if that had meant choosing the market

economy over pure socialism. 'When I leave, it will be without remorse or regrets. I will even be a little relieved because a certain fatigue sets in with age and time," he

He declined to comment on who would succeed him, saying he would be happy if it were a fellow Socialist but there were signs that this might not be the case.

The 78-year-old president, due to complete 14 years in office in May, said the most difficult and important decision he had taken was in 1983 when he chose European

setting aside his campaign

promise of tax cuts in order

to focus on deficit reduction

and for prioritising health

care reform though it was not

Americans seem to be send-

ing Mr. Clinton is that he is

right when he complains his

messages don't get out and

his successes go unnoticed —

and that now he also has to worry Republicans will be

But the public remains

generally hostile to politi-

cians, according to the poll,

and if the trend holds, the

Republicans could find them-

selves in the same boat which

sank the Democrats in

President Clinton met

Democratic congressional

leaders Friday and charted a

strategy to play down their differences, defend their poli-

cies and challenge the Re-

publican drive for a balanced

to get to work... and chart

our course for the year ahead," Mr. Clinton told re-

porters in the Oval Office,

where he commented on un-

employment figures that fell

to 5.4 per cent last month —

a development he said

showed his economic policies

vate economy as we have cut government," Mr. Clinton

said. "That's a real recovery

and a real bargain for the

ers standing behind him, Mr.

Clinton insisted. "I will stand

against any effort to roll back

With the Democratic lead-

"We have grown the pri-

have been correct.

American people."

'We are here and anxious

taking credit for them.

The only clear message

popular politically.

open economy over pursuing his Socialist economic policy. There was no choice. Either I followed Lenin's policy - and I had the

advantage of knowing how that ends — or else I was obliged to pursue a policy of compromise," he recalled.

By pegging the franc to the deutsche mark after three devaluations and imposing austerity after a period of social free-spending, Mr. Mitter-rand said he had ensured that socialism would be synonymous with sound government, not bankruptcy.

"What is marvellous about power is that it enables you to affect things and people, although not as much as is said," he reflected. Among the limits, the pres-

ident cited the power of international currency speculators who could move more money in a day than the Bank of France held in its reserves. "Power isn't what people

think. The president of the Fifth Republic has much less power than is imagined, although more than most other democratic leaders." Among his personal

achievements, Mr. Mitterrand cited the abolition of the death penalty and state security courts and progress in civil liberties and freedom of ex-

He also cited major architecture projects, including the Louvre Museum Pyramid, the grand arch of La Defense, the Bastille Opera House and a new National Library that have altered the face of Paris.

The president said he had had to defend them tooth and nail against Socialist finance ministers who wanted to cut the budget and had accused him of "a prince's whims." "I told them: You will

or to rock the foundations of

the recovery by proposals

that explode the deficit or

gimmicks that undermine the

integrity of the budget we have worked so hard to put in

Mr. Clinton met a group of

bipartisan congressional lead-

ers Thursday — including

Speaker Newt Gingrich and

Senate Republican leader

Bob Dole — and insisted that

a spirit of cooperation will

After Friday's Democrats-

only session, however, the

tone was one of conditions

that must be met - particu-

larly when it comes to Re-

oublican efforts to add an

amendment to the constitu-

tion that would require a

White House officials pri-

vately acknowledge it will be

difficult to block amendment

proponents from getting the

ecessary two-thirds majority

needed in both the House

The House has already set

a vote on the amendment for

Jan. 19 and the Senate hopes

to complete action before

If approved by Congress,

38 state legislatures must

approve it within seven years

for the amendment to be-

come part of the constitution.

opposing an amendment that

generally is popular with the

public, Mr. Clinton and the

Democrats agreed to call for

requirement specifing how

the balancing will be

achieved over a period of

Instead of being seen as

and Senate.

month's end.

seven years.

balanced federal budget.

never have an architecture emment. policy if you make cuts all the time'," he said. Clinton honeymoons with Republican Congress

A VISTOR AND FRENCH SNOWED IN: Tourists take snowfalls causing traffic chaos in areas

pictures of themselves by canons at the Hotel throughout the country, the nations Des Invalides in Paris. Winter swooped in on information centre said (AFP photo) France early Friday with heavy overnight

S. Africa to hold state funeral for Slovo

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's late Communist leader Joe Slovo will be given a state funeral. President Nelson Mandela said Saturday, announcing an offi-cial day of mourning as ti-

butes poured in. Mr. Mandela said Mr. Slovo, who died of cancer Friday aged 68, would be buried on Jan. 15 in Johannesburg.

. "Comrade Joe Slovo's funeral will be accorded the highest possible status by the government so that this hero of the South African people is bid farewell in a fitting manner," Mr. Mandela told reporters.

The day of the burial will be an official day of mourning, and flags will fly at halfmast in Pretoria, Cape Town, Johannesburg where the funeral will take place, as well as the capitals of all the

Mr. Slovo, a Lithuanianborn anti-apartheid fighter, was housing minister in South Africa's first democratic gov-

"Personally, I had known Comrade Joe for more than three decades both as a close friend and colleague, at university as a fellow student as founders of our military wing and a close confidante," Mr.

Mandela said. "His departure is a loss to the nation, the government, the ANC, South African Communist Party, and the rest of the democratic movement and it is a loss to me

personally." Mr. Slovo was national chairman of the SACP and the first white member of the executive of Mr. Mandela's African National Congress which won power in all-race elections last April.

Tributes poured in from many South Africans. Former president and now Deputy President F.W. De Klerk said he had respected the Communist leader as an astute negotiator.

During negotiations over democracy with the white government and other parties, Mr. Slovo broke the logiam by suggesting a "sun-set clause" in which there would be power-sharing in South Africa until 1999. The clause was the brainchild of the current government of

national unity.

Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said: "Although our views were diametrically

underground, as one of the opposed to each other and in a sense we were political enemies for decades, I had great

respect for his honesty Kwazulu-Natal ANC leader Jacob Zuma said Mr. Slovo had epitomised nonracialism.

"He made a great con-tribution in negotiations. He was part of the ANC leadership who analysed a complex situation to emerge with almost a miracle. He epitomised non-racialism and made an outstanding contribution to this country. He is a great loss," Mr. Zuma

"South Africa will be all the poorer for Joe Slovo's ing," the weekend Star newspaper said in an edito-

The Citizen newspaper, which supported the former apartheid government, said it had been saddened by the death of Mr. Slovo.

The SACP said his death was a loss for the whole country.

"We mourn the loss of our leader. He brought to our liberation movement and our party a rigorous intellect, a strong sense of realism and a sharp wit," the Communist

a fearless colleague in the China party orders discipline in army

BELIING (R) - Chinese President Jiang Zemin, who is also Communist Party chief and top military commissar, ordered the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Saturday to mounting compaign to halt

military corruption. The high-level call to enforce party order in China's three-million-strong military is the latest step in a drive to eliminate army graft as armaments plants turn increasing numbers of production lines over to more lucrative civi-

lian contracts. The order, carried on the front pages of the party mouthpiece People's Daily and the People's Liberation Army Daily and accompanied by a commentary, marks a scarcely veiled attack on profiteering throughout the military - possibly reaching to senior levels.

Jiang, chairman of the powerful party Central Military Commission, directs party officials to unify committee leadership, build party branforce, strengthen administration and keep a tight grip on the quality of leading cadres.

"Party units must boost quality, with special emphasis to the management and supervision of leading cadres."

"Leading cadres must voluntarily submit to the supervision of the party organisation and the masses, using their authority correctly to ensure proper management of power and finances,'

Civilian output from China's military plants now accounts for 70 per cent of army factories' total produc-

military's business empire is a closely guarded secret, foreign military analysts estimate civilian contracts bring in profits of \$5 billion a year. civilian business arm of nearly \$7.0 billion in foreign investment alone in recent years gives some indication of

volved. On New Year's Day, the army issued a regulation signed by Chief of General Staff Zhang Wannian, Chief Political Commissar Yu Yongbo and Chief of Logistics Fu Quangyou subjecting the army's business empire to audits of accounts and fiscal

discipline for the first time. The aim is to ensure that various levels of the leadership strictly abide by financial and economic laws and rules, the newspaper said.

While the value of the The four-part order by Mr.

the scale of the funds in-

Chinese judge pledges crime clampdown

BELIING (AFP) — China's top judge has pledged tougher action this year against a mounting crime wave, with special attention given to corruption and the pressing issue of copyright violation.

The need to ensure national security, social stability and the safety of lives and property "is a pressing de-mand of the people, and a duty that cannot be shirked by the people's courts," the president of the Supreme People's Court, Ren Jianxin, was quoted as saying by the

China Daily Saturday. A rising crime wave saw the number of criminal cases handled by Chinese courts in the first 11 months of last year jump to 437,429, more than 20 per cent higher than in the same period of 1993.

Rapid economic development, mass migrations of rural labourers to the cities and growing unemployment have all contributed to the increasing crime figures, and Judge Ren admitted that balancing progress with social stability

was a difficult task. "The work of reform, development and stability is very heavy," Judge Ren said in a speech on the opening day of the National Work Conference of Higher Court Presidents.

Top priority in 1995 will be protecting intellectual prop-erty rights (IPR), Judge Ren said, adding that the pro-ficiency of Chinese courts in the field should be "upgraded to a new level." China is embroiled in a

major dispute with the United States over IPR protection which could escalate into a full-scale trade war with both sides threatening sanctions and retaliation.

Washington has given Beijing until Feb. 4 to take effective steps to improve IPR protection or face 100 per cent tariffs on Chinese goods worth \$1 billion.

China has warned that it will retaliate with sweeping sanctions of its own if Wasi goes through with its threat.
"The Chinese laws on

trademarks, patents copyrights and unfair competition, as well as the relevant international conventions China has ratified, should be applied to cases concerning intellectual property," Judge Ren said.

Foreign companies have repeatedly complained about the weak enforcement of copyright regulations in China and have also accused the courts of dealing too lightly with violators.

Another priority this year will be the continued battle against corruption, Judge Ren said, pointing out that the number of graft cases tried in the 1994 January-November period surged 65 per cent to 34,899.

"Those who use their positions for personal profits and take bribes should be brought to justice in strict accordance with the law," Judge Ren

Despite repeated campaigns in the past, the Chinese authorities have failed to curb the spread of corruption, especially among high-ranking officials. Of all the corruption cases

tried last year, only 25 in-volved officials above the city level and 159 above the coun-

Judge Ren also stressed the need to strengthen the fight against economic crimes in order to support the government's struggle with infla-

Major targets for 1995 will be counterfeiting, the stealing and sale of value-added tax receipts, tax evasion, smuggling and producing shoddy goods...

In a separate development. Chinese police have captured 32 gangs of pirates operating along the Yangtze River after reports of 432 robberies at ports and on the water of China's longest river, the People's daily said Saturday.

River Police have launched a New Year campaign to pro-tect the river, a major artery for transport from central China to the commercial metropolis of Shanghai, from gangs of maranding river pirates, the newspaper said. Preliminary figures show River Police received reports

of 432 cases of robbery along the river from 1993 to October 1994, the newspaper said. They cracked 252 cases and

rounded up 32 gangs, it said. The gangs specialised in stealing coal, oil, quarried stone and steel from ships sailing the river and posed a serious threat to shipping, the

Thousands gather for Elvis' 60th birthday party

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R)

-- Thousands of die-hard Elvis Presley fans poured into Memphis at the beginning of a three-day celebration of the 60th anniversary of the birthday of the king of rock n' roll. The festival, though not as large as the Elvis week celebration in August which marks the entertainer's death in 1971, is expected to draw at least 10,000 Elvis tans. Among those not attending are Lisa Marie Presley-Jackson, daughter of the rock star, and her mother, Priscilla Presley. "They usually don't come here for the birthday celebration," said David Beckwith, a spokesman for Elvis Presley Enterprises. "These (fans) are the die-hards and I think more will be here this year because of Hundreds of foreign tourists, mostly fan clubs, are in town from Denmark, Germany, Britain and Australia. To honour the signer, Felix De Weldon, the artist who sculptured the Iwo Jima monument in Washington, D.C., has created a commemorative bust of Presley to be presented to the late singer's estate Sunday. A local botel has designed a special birthday cake for the public Sunday, and singer Ronnie McDowell will perform Elvis tunes with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Although more than a dozen other public events are scheduled, the main event will be a ceremony at Graceland, the late singer's mansion, Sunday.

Universe vs. World in India's

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's two international beauty queens, Miss Universe, Sushmita Sen, and Miss World, Aishwarya Rai, are set to do battle in India's cola war. Coca Cola has signed Sushmita Sen to pitch the soft drink in India, Asian Age newspaper reported Friday, in a bid to upstage rival Pepsi, which uses Aishwarya Rai for its advertising here. The 21-year-old Sen is scheduled to fly to Bombay Saturday to pose for Cora Cola advertise-tients. Rai has already appeared in television spots

Star TV breaks **Into Singapore** with pop videos

HONG KONG (AFP) Star TV said that it would supply eight hours of music video programming a week to Singapore, under an agreement signed with Television Corp. of Singapore. "The sixmonth deal is a source of pride... since the Star TV satellite signal is not accessible in Singapore," the pan-Asian satellite broadcaster, controlled by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Ltd., said a statement. No value was disclosed for the arrange-

6 footed, 6 testicled calf born in Argentina

CHACO, Argentina (AFP) — A cow has given birth to a calf with six feet, two tails and six testicies, the proud owner said Friday. "He is in good health and is moving around normally," said Julio Lovey, a cattle rancher in Chaco, who said the baby bovine was walking on four of his six feet and that the other two dangled from its hannches. Mr. Lovey said he intended to give the calf to the zoo in Chaco.

China nabs 4, recovers imperial concubine's art

BEIJING (R) — Chinese police have arrested four people for allegedly stealing 1,000-year-old freecoes that had been buried with an imperial concubine from a museum in northern Shaanxi province, the China Daily said. The four, including the husband of a museum employee, were arrested in Shaanxi, in western Xinjiang and in southern Guangai province last month for allegedly stealing the frescoes, the newspaper said. The frescoes had been found in the tomb of a concubine of Tang dynasty (618-907) Emperor Li Shimin, who lived from 599 to 649, the newspaper said. Some of the relics have been recovered, it said, but did not mention how many were still missing or how they were stelen from the museum of the mausoleum of Tang dynasty, established in 1972. If convicted, the suspects could be sentenced to death.

Sun's return sparks celebration in Arctic outpost

INUVIK. Northwest Territories (R) — Jubilant residents of Canada's Arctic set off fireworks, danced and ate caribou in celebration of their first fleeting glimpse of the sun this week after more than a month of frigid darkness.

The sun peeked above the horizon for just a few minutes Friday at Inuvik, but it was reason enough for a party in this rugged outpost of about 3,000 people at the northern extreme of North America. "After the period of dark-

ness, people are happy and

feeling good to know the sun

is back. It's a relief and a time for a new beginning," said Eddie Kolausok, an Inuvik Local residents - who include the Eskimo, or Inuvialuit people as they prefer to be called - last saw the sun in the first week of December, although indirect

rays have given the sky an

orange glow in recent days.

To cheer the return of daylight to this remote area, the town for the eighth year in a row put on a festival called Sunrise Celebration.

It began Thursday night

chief Ian Orbell.

But the main event came Friday, happy townspeople converged on a nearby hilltop on foot and in sleds, snowmobiles and cars for the sunrise at 1:38 p.m. mst (2038 GMT). They cheered and applanded as the sun crested, painting the sky a vibrant

with a feast of caribou and Arctic char fish, native singing, dancing, drum-playing and then fireworks and bonfires. Despite temperatures of minus 28 degrees Celsius (minus 18 F), most of the town turned out on a frozen

lake for the festivities. "This revives the spirit. It can get pretty bleak in the dead of winter here, so we came up with this idea to liven things up," said fire

orange, red and lavender. "The sunrises here are the most beatiful on earth. If you can take the cold, this is a wonderful place to be," said local resident Esther Gess-

The sun was above the horizon for less than a half hour, but the festive mood continued into the weekend with square dancing and

The sunrise celebration has become a much-awaited feature of life in Inuvik, where it helps combat cabin fever and winter depression brought on by light deprivation. The town is the govern-

ment and service centre for Canada's western Arctic, a frozen and thinly populated frontier region of barren tundra where some hunters and trappers still live off the land. Some locals had never seen fireworks before the festival was started. Although pyrotechnics are standard

fare in southern Canada on the national holiday July 1, there's little point of mounting such a display in Inuvik because of the constant daylight in the summertime. "It never gets dark enough

here on Canada Day for fireworks, so this is a big treat, said Chief Orbell. In past years, frigid cold played havoc with the festival's traditional Inuvialuit drum-dancing display, so this

> "The drums froze and wouldn't make a sound. We learn from experience," said Chief Orbell with a laugh. Due to the Earth's tilt as it

year it was moved indoors.

rotates, the sun disappears from view above the arctic circle around the winter solstice Dec. 21. The exact length of this dark period varies from place to place because of the Earth's pronounced curvature in the far

Mexican rebels prolong truce in Chiapas

MEXICO CITY (Agencies)

— Zapatista rebels said a six-day truce declared on Dec. 31 would remain in force in the poor southern state of Chiapas for six more days, Mexican television reported.

The ceasefire was to be prolonged until Jan. 12, the Zapatista National Liberation Army said in a statement issued from their stronghold of San Cristobal De Las

The rebels also put forth conditions to resume peace talks with the government that were broken off last June after the sides failed to agree on Zapatista demands for better living conditions.
They said President Ernes-

to Zedillo must allow opposition leader Amado Avendano to set up a transitional government in Chiapas and allow a commission headed by a local bishop to act as ediator in the conflict.

Although Mr. Zedillo has so far agreed to let Roman Catholic Bishop Samuel Ruiz act as the chief mediator, the rebels said they were never-theless prepared to hold talks with the government.

The Zapatistas, who staged a bloody uprising a year ago to press indigenous demands and reform, broke a delicate ceasefire last month to protest a local election result.

Rebels seized several towns and villages but a clash with the army was averted when Mr. Zedillo agreed to let the commission headed by Bishop Ruiz mediate the con-

Meanwhile former President Carlos Salinas De Gortari, barely a month out of office, is coming under fierce attack from Mexicans who say he put his personal interests above all else and left the country in economic

Political opponents are threatening to file treason charges against Mr. Salinas, who is on a world tour campaigning to be the head of the new World Trade Organisa-

The sudden decline of his reputation matches that of Mexico's economy, which has plunged into chaos following a pre-Christmas peso de-

Mr. Salinas left office on Dec. 1 as a relatively popular president known worldwide as an economic reformer who forged a landmark free-trade agreement with the United States and Canada, Mexico's economy, after a year of political turmoil, appeared on the verge of an extended boom with the administration of President Zedillo predicting 4 per cent growth and 4 per cent inflation for 1995.

But Mr. Salinas is now being blamed for allowing the country to accumulate a huge current account deficit that was aggravated by his refusal to devalue the peso despite constant cries from foreign investors.

Mr. Zedillo, just three weeks after taking office, was forced to set the peso free, which caused it to drop 35 per cent in value, and put together an emergency rescue plan that included \$18 billion in foreign credits to stabilise the suddenly spin-

ning economy.

Critics charge that Mr. Salinas and former Finance Minister Pedro Aspe did not want to devalue the currency because of concern that it would hurt his image as he campaigned for the World Trade Organisation post.

The latest issue of magazine Proceso had a picture of Mr. Salinas on its cover under the title "the guilty one." Even the head of Mr. Salinas's long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, said Wednesday that his government had made "inopportune decisions that

The centre-left Democratic Revolution Party, or PRD, said it will file charges against Mr. Salinas and several former cabinet members next [week for conduct that caused great damage to

were not completely light."

Mr. Zedillo, in a Tuesday speech unveiling the rescue plan, appeared to echo the suspicions of many that the former president had put his personal ambitions above the

interests of the nation. "I head a government that will always speak the truth, however hard it may be a government that will safeguard the general interest he said.

Bosnian rivals disagree over ceasefire details

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations said on Saturday Bosnia's warring factions had reached an impasse over car-rying out provisions of a new ceasefire, with each side reluctant to compromise.

The latest truce between the Muslim-led Bosnian government and its Bosnian Serb foes has slowed fighting since it took effect a week ago, with the exception of the Bihac enclave. The U.N. reported spor-

adic shelling in the northwest enclave and the government accused Serbs of violating the truce on the eastern edge of the pocket.

Talks between Muslim and Serb negotiators have sturnbled over implementing key elements of the ceasefire, with government troops re-fusing to withdraw from a demilitarised zone (DMZ) above Sarajevo.

Serb forces in turn have refused to reopen roads to civilian traffic into the Bosnian capital, demanding Muslim troops first pull out of the Mount Igman DMZ.
"The Bosnian Serb side

continues to link the issue of opening the routes across the airport to the presence of Bosnian government troops on Mount Igman," U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko told reporters in Sarajevo.

The truce appeared to be taking hold everywhere but the Bihac region, where shelling and mortar attacks continued Friday, U.N. peacekeepers said. Some 100 artillery explo-

sions and more than 200

rounds of small arms fire were registered in the past 24 hours near the town of Velika Kladusa in the north of the government-held enclave, said U.N. Major Herve Gournelon.

Bihac town, a U.N. declared "safe area," was hit by an 82mm mortar bomb Friday afternoon for the first time since the truce began. There were no casualties re-

The U.N. was investigating the incident but previous mortar and artillery attacks on Bihac town have been blamed on Bosnian or Croatian Serb forces.

Bosnian state radio claimed Bosnian Serb forces were firing on government 5th Corps troops Saturday on the eastern edge of the en-clave around Bosanska Krupa. The report could not be immediately confirmed by the United Nations.

Despite earlier promises to withdraw from the U.N. demilitarised zone on Mount Igman southwest of Sarajevo, Muslim-led troops were still occupying three strategic lookout points in the DMZ, U.N. Captain Miriam Souchaki told Reuters.

"We are unable to (actually) inspect one of the places because the Bosnian army tells us the access way is mined," said Capt. Souchaki.

U.N. soldiers had set out to sweep the DMZ once again in hopes of encouraging remaining government troops

But a planned inspection by a U.N. general accompa-

nied by Bosnian Muslim and Serb officers was cancelled after the two sides Friday refused to sign an agreement spelling out steps to verify troop withdrawals and estabish zones of separation.

The U.N. commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, planned to meet Bosnian Serb Army chief General Ratko Mladic Sunday to try to break the deadlock which has prevented the planned deployment of peacekeeping troops between rival armies.

Maj. Gourmelon said the dispute over the Sarajevo DMZ was slowing down efforts to cement the cease-fire: "The implementation process is too slow. The next ioint commission meeting will be on Jan. 11 but our feeling is that the two sides are working with a deep degree of mistrust, approaching issues in a very bureaucratic way, point by point."

Scattered machine gun volleys have broken the snowbound calm in the Sarajevo area since late Friday but the U.N. attributed this to the Serbs's Orthodox Christmas weekend.

in at least one positive development, the Bosnian Serbs were issuing clearances for almost all U.N. convoys without restrictions, even those carrying fuel for peacekeepers in government enclaves, Maj. Gommelon The Bosnian Serbs had

promised to return freedom French engineers from the 17th Parachute Regiment, of movement to the U.N. as part of the ceasefire accord,



French U.N. soldiers stand guard during the reopening ceremony of the Latin Bridge in Sarajevo. The bridge, near which the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assess

which arose from a peace mission by former U.S. Presi-

dent Jimmy Carter. On Friday, one of Sarajevo's most famous bridges across the Miljacka River reopened to pedestrian traffic after having been heavily damaged in Bosnia's 33-month-old civil war.

The rebuilt Latin Bridge was inaugurated during a brief ceremony attended by Ante Zelic, vice-president of the Sarajevo municipality, and General Herve Gobilliard of France, United Nations commander for

part of the U.N. Protection Force here, spent a month restoring the structure.

"Let this reconstruction be the first such visible sign (of peace) in a long series of others," Gen. Gobilliard said, speaking on the sixth day of a ceasefure between Bosnian army and rebel Serb

Mr. Zelic thanked France for its contribution to rebuilding the bridge, which from the end of World War II until last year had been known as Princip Bridge. It was named for Serbian

nationalist Gavrilo Princip, who on Aug. 28, 1914 carried out the assassination nearby

of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, crown prince of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The assassination sparked World War I across Europe. Meanwhile Bosnian Croat leader Kresimir Zubak said

Friday he could see no sign of a "just peace" in Bosnia-Herzegovina and called on his troops to resort to force if a political solution was not forthcoming, the Croatian News Agency (HINA) re-

Speaking at Siroki Brijeg, some 150 kilometres south west of Sarajevo, Mr. Zubak noted "the war is not at an end and there is still no sign of a just peace."

The "president" of the self-declared Croatian Republic of Herceg-Bosna as well as of the Muslim-Croat federation created last March signed up to the four-month ceasation of hostilities which began at the New Year and said Friday that Bosnian Croat (HVO) troops were But he also invited HVO fighters "to pull together your forces to obtain by military force what we will not be

able to obtain by political means," HINA reported. "We hope to get back what is ours," Mr. Zabak went on, saying that was his people's

Sri Lanka military prepares for truce

COLOMBO (AFP) - Sri Lankan security forces Saturday began preparing for a truce with Tamil rebels while Tamils opposed to the rebels said they were bracing for possible attacks during the cessation of hostilities.

The open-ended truce between security forces and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) comes into effect Sunday.

"There have been no incidents in the past 24 hours. We like to think the hostilities have ceased ahead of schedule. We have to wait and see," military spokesman Brigadier Nihal Jayakody

Tamil groups violently opposed to the LTTE said they have taken extra security measures because they feared the rebels may now try to annihilate their rivals.

"We welcome this. But in the past the LTTE has used a cessation of hostilities to annihilate rivals in the Tamil community," said Dharma-lingham Sithdhathan, chief of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil

Brig. Jayakody said that the military leadership was determined to ensure that personnel in the field were thoroughly briefed on the details of the truce in the embattled northeast.

"We are in the process of sending instructions to field commanders. We want to make sure that everyone down the line gets the message. The agreement has to be respected to the letter. said Brig. Jayakody.

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga told reporters that both sides wanted to see if an initial two-week truce period worked well before thinking of

extending it. Just hours before Kumaratunga signed the seven-point truce agreement Thursday, LTTE guerrillas and government troops clashed in northeast Weli Oya, leaving three rebels dead and six soldiers wormded

Mrs. Kumaratunga announced the truce in parliament Friday and vowed to give "maximum devolution of power" to minority Tamils in any settlement to the ethnic conflict that has

TOKYO (R) - Two strong

earthquakes rocked Japan in-

cluding the capital Tokyo

Saturday, killing one person and injuring about 30, a Meteorological Agency

The two quakes, one

measuring 6.9 on the Richter

Scale in northern Japan and

one 14 hours later just out-

side Tokyo measuring 5.2,

rattled buildings and the

All the casualties reported

so far were in the first quake

which hit the Hachinohe area

about 500 kilometres north of

Tokyo at about 7:30 a.m.

(2230 GMT).

nerves of many residents.

spokesman said.



during a press conference as she outlined her peace plan to end Sri Lanka's ethnic war which has claimed over 30,000 lives in the past 23 years (AFP photo)

claimed more than 30,000

Mrs. Kumaratunga, 49, told parliament that an aborted pact signed between her late father Solomon Bandaranaike and Tamil leader S.J.V. Chelvanayagam would be the basis for a political

settlement to the ethnic issue. The pact signed after Mrs. Bandaranaike became prime minister in 1956, ran into militant opposition from the majority Sinhalese Buddhist community, which described the accord as "an act of treachery."

However, Mrs. Kumaratunga, who is also from the majority community, said she did not expect fresh opposition because she and her People's Alliance had received a mandate for peace when they won parliamentary and presidential polls.

The truce agreement, which was also signed by LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran, came after two rounds of talks in the LTTE stronghold of Jaffna in the north. A third round of nego-tiations has been fixed for

The same area was shaken

Dec. 28 in which three people

died and several hundred

The latest quake to shake

Hachinohe was centred in the

The quake which rattled Tokyo rumbled through the

city at about 9:40 p.m. (1240

The agency spokesman

said its focal point was lo-

cated about 45 miles (70-

kms) under the earth near the

fishing port of Mito, just

He said there were no re-

north of the capital.

were injured.

Pacific Ocean.

a 7.5 Richter quake on

Six peace committees headed by representatives sent by foreign governments have been set up to monitor the truce. Both sides agreed to a 600-metre (1,900-foot) demilitarised zone outside security force camps in the

The LTTE has been blamed for the slaying of several Tamil politicians and scores of rival cadres during 14 months of failed peace talks with the former United National Party regime.

The LTTE, which is fight-ing for a separate state in the northeast for minority Tamils, controls large parts of the north but is mostly confined to jungles in the east after being driven out of the region by the army in 1991. Sri Lanka's two-week truce

with Tamil rebels starting Sunday helps both sides maintain momentum to end the bloody ethnic conflict but analysts note the real hard bargaining for a durable peace is yet to come.

And, the government has

said it will be forced to resort to the military option if the peace talks fail. Japan rocked by 2nd tremor in one day

ports so far of casualties or

damage from the tremor

which shook high-rise build-

ings and set lights swinging

by falling objects.

quake.

Seoul team leaves for nuclear talks in

SEOUL (AFP) - A South Korean government delega-tion left Saturday for Washington to discuss details of the supply of safe nuclear reactors to North Korea.

The delegation was headed by Park In-Kuk, director of the Foreign Ministry's disarmament-atomic power In Washington, Park will hold tripartite talks with U.S.

and Japanese officials on the inauguration of the Korea Energy Development Orga-nisation (KEDO). KEDO is responsible for financing, supplying and constructing the reactors. Seoul

and Washington hope to set up the multilateral organisation in February. Under last year's landmark nuclear accord, Washington

agreed to supply two lightwater reactors, at an estimated cost of \$4 billion, to the North in exchange for a shutdown of its controversial graphite reactors.

Meanwhile General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, will visit Seoul this month to discuss whether to go ahead with U.S.-South Korean war exercises cancelled last year, a report said Saturday.

During his visit from Jan. 19, Mr. Shalikashvili will also explain Washington's decision to cancel a phased reduction of U.S. troops from South Korea, the Korea

Herald said. The newspaper quoted a military source as saying that U.S. and South Korean milit-

the Janata Dal, which has

suffered repeated splits in re-

cent years but still rules three

The Janata Dai was the

Political analysts said V.P.

Singh's move was a blow to

the Janata Dal, which lacks

another leader of national

stature ahead of parliamen-

tary elections due in mid-

"Maybe he is angry," said Janata Dal MP Ram Vilas

Paswan, commenting on V.P.

Singh's decision. "He has his

own commitments and style

of India's 25 states.

ary leaders may agree to skip the annual Team Spirit exercise this year, only if North Korea faithfully implements its nuclear accord with

Team Spirit was cancelled last year to help create a favourable mood for negotian tions on neutralising the North's controversial nuclear programme.

North Korea called for a permanent halt to the annual exercise, but "Scoul" and Washington said it could be resumed if the North balked at the nuclear accord.

The newspaper said Mr. Shalikashvili would explain to South Korean leaders the U.S. decision to suspend the East Asia Strategic Initiative (EASI), which called for a

phased reduction of U.S. forces from South Korea and

By canceling the EASI, Washington plans to main-tain the existing 37,000 troops here and 45,000 in Japan, plus the 7th Fleet in Last Asia, it said. Washington withdrew

7,000 American troops between 1990 and 1992 in the first phase of a three-stage troop reduction plan under the EASI.

Another 7,000 were to have been pulled out from South Korea between 1993 and the end of this year, but the second phase of troop reductions was suspended last year when tensions escalated over the North's nuclear programme.

Former Indian premier quits opposition party

mer Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh has quit the country's main centrist opposition party, and said he will stay away from politics for five years, news-

papers reported Saturday. "I will not be renewing my membership of the Janata Dal (People's Party)," Mr. V.P. Singh, who headed India's first coalition government that lasted 11 months until November 1990, said in Bom-

bay Friday.
"My exit from the Dal is no sacrifice," The Hindustan Times quoted him as saying. 'I will not be part of any

political party for the next five years," he added. V.P. Singh, who enjoys widespread respect for his integrity added that he would join non-political forums during the next five years to campaign against corruption.
The Times said V.P.

Singh's decision was the re-

of functioning."
Mr. V.P. Singh formed the
Janata Dal in 1988 after quitting the ruling Congress (I). Party, then headed by slain

asked need Mobutu's personal response," he told the Nation newspaper. Bizimungu, Sylvetre Ntiban-tunganya of Burundi, Ugan-

in his presidential palace. Kigali, Shaharyar Khan, was an obnserver at the summit. Mr. Arap Moi said some five million Rwandan refugees were affected two milion of whom are based in

violence in our sister state can be avoided," he warned.

"The questions that will be

sult of his marginalisation in Rajiv Gandhi, and launching a nation-wide crusade against corruption. Meanwhile a crisis in Indi-

an Prime Minister P.V. Nara-

simha Rao's Congress Party

dominant constituent of a deepened Friday when a disfive-party National Front sident leader called for elecgovernment which came to tions for the post of party power in New Delhi in Derrresident. cember 1989 with V.P. Singh as India's seventh prime

Arjun Singh, a former cabinet minister seen as Mr. Rao's main rival for the leadership, said the party's head should be chosen by a vote.

Mr. Rao, the current Congress president, was chosen by a committee of senior Congress leaders after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in

May, 1991. "Let the party elect whoever they want to elect and that person will take the party to the next general elections."
Mr. Singh told members of the Foreign Correspondent's Club in New Delhi. General

elections are scheduled in early 1996.

Mr. Singh, who resigned as minister of human resources development in Mr. Rao's cabinet on Christmas Eve. denied any plans to split the Congress Party.

"I am not intending to cause a split in this great organisation. There's nothing to be gained politically or

personally," he said.
Mr. Rao is also facing a challenge from local Congress parties in the states, especially in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state. He appointed his political adviser Jitendra Prasada as president of the state Con-

gress Party Thursday. Mr. Prasada replaced N.D. Tewari, a former finance and external affairs minister who had demanded the withdrawal of Congress support for the statee government ruled by a

African summit focuses on Rwandan refugees

NAIROBI (Agencies) Leaders from seven central and east African nations gathered here for a one-day summit Saturday to discuss how to persuade hundreds of thousands of Rwandan re-

fugees to return home.

The question that should be uppermost in our minds is how to prevent such a catastrophe as was witnessed last year from repeating itself," Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi said in his welcoming address as leaders and their foreign ministers gathered at the Presidential

But the glaring absence of Zaire's Mobutu Sese Seko, In Saturday's earlier the only head of state to stay quake, police said an 85-yearaway from Nairobi, will unold woman in Hachinohe doubtedly detract from the died from a heart attack and summit, according to Kenyan press reports. Mr. Mobutu is up to 30 people were injured represented by his Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo.

Railway authorities suspended trains in the Hachi-One delegate at a summit nobe area until crew made preparatory-meeting of foresafety checks of lines. gn ministers and officials in Water and power supplies, Nairobi Friday said the sumdamaged last week, were mit would be a failure withagain disrupted by Saturday's

Rwandan President Pateur

da's Yoweri Museveni, Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania and Frederick Chilubs of Zambia all joined their host Mr. Arap Moi for the summit-The U.N. secretary general's special representative in

neighbouring countries. "It is only through a genuine process of national reconciliation that a cycle of

Rwanda's Rehabilitation and Reintegration Minister Jacques Bihozagara told journalists that his country expected the summit to provide "concrete measures" to tackle the problem.

He said Rwanda wanted transit zones to be set up for returning refugees, the countrywide deployment of huan rights observers, and extra U.N. soldiers -- 5,500 --

to police the operation.
He said U.N. troops were needed in particular to separate the former regime's soldiers and militia from refugees in giant camps in Zaire and Tanzania where they continued a campaign of ir timidation.

Mr. Bibozagara said the

Kigali government would not

hold talks with the leaders of the former interim govern-ment, now based in Zaire as a government-in-exile, as it would mean talking to the "authors of genocide." Neighbouring Burundi, which itself testers on the brink of a bloodbath compa-

rable to Rwanda's because of

its acute tribal problems, has a special interest on the Nairobi outcome. There are some 300,000 Burundian refugees, mostly in Zaire while several aundred thousand others are dis-

placed within their own coun-

Saturday. "Our region has had more than its share of political calaniities and catastrophes,"

Mr. Arap Moi said. He said 1995 could be a happier year in Africa "i we make progress in giving peace a chance everywhe

on this continent." Tanzania, broker of the 1993 Arusha Peace Accords on Rwanda which were multified by last year's genocide of up to one million Tuess and moderate Hutus, pushed Saturday for concrete progress on the return of some two million refugees.

"It is important for the

Rwandan government to understand that the solution lies in the return of their people and we are pushing them to that goal," Tanza-nian Minister of State Ahmad Hassan Diriz told Reuters He said the new Tate. dominated government in Rwanda must also come lo terms with the 40,000 former government soldiers and mi tiamen now in camps in tag.

em Zaire.



Chairman of the Board of Directors: MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General: DAMA DAMMAHOM

Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation. University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 676141-4 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Change and media choices

EVEN BEFORE Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker had a chance to name members of his Cabinet, there rose voices affacking it as one that could not meet the challen of the new era. Certain "sources" were quoted in this newspaper yesterday as predicting that the new Cabinet "would not be able to bring about enough changes to meet the responsibilities of the peace era."

The phenomenon of politicians trying to undermine Gher politicians for their own reasons and interests is not ancommon anywhere in the world, especially in open and democratic societies. In our country, the case is no different, and we have to accept the fact that political wranging will continue to be with us for as long as there are politicians and changes in governments. It is therefore not an easy task for this or any other newspaper to censor any politician for holding a different view. What is unfortunate, though, is the fact that politicians would not go "on the record" when they are critical of the government in power or they are not objective enough in their criticism. A good case in point of the lack of objectivity on the part of some politicians is evident in the statement carried by the Jordan Times yesterday in which the "sources" attacked Sharif Zeid's team even before the team was put together.

In a country like ours where so many people are "mestawzireen," i.e. ministerial hopefuls, politicians keep making noises of approval or disapproval, depending on how close or distant they are from the prime minister-designate or the incumbent prime minister. That is up to them. But despite the fact that there has been a much higher turnover of ministers in the past than prime ministers, change in government itself, in the way it functions and does business. has been slow. It is not uncommon, then, to hear ordinary people say in resignation that they do not believe that real change will take place whatever government takes office.

This is so probably because in the case of establisted, long practising democracies, the party that wins the highest number of seats in Parliament either forms its own government or negotiates with other parties, with clear mandates, to form a new administration. In the event, consultations and negotiations are made over a common agenda and programme for the new government. This unfortunately is not the case in Jordan. Consultations are made more over cames and regions than agenda and programmes. And the names are chosen through a process that is almost unique and exclusive to Jordan. It is, therefore, the names which float around that matter, not

the programme of a well-established team or party. So until we reach a more advanced political stage, bickering will continue to be part of the game. Meanwhile, the government-run media would do well to cover the debates that usually accompany the formation of any new government. By talking about the activities of or interviewing the prime ministerdesignate and those who are close to him in a bid to sound them out on his policies, programme and vision, the official media could contribute to reducing the hearsay and gossip. It should not be left only to the print media to carry that task. In any way, Jordan's electronic media has an important impact to make not only on our citizens' perceptions but also on neigh-bouring countries, which need to see that we have a thriving democracy and respect for political pluralism and freedoms.

Until we are able to get our information act together, speculation, propaganda and gossip will continue to thrive in our midst. In addition, and more importantly perhaps, educating our people and others will be more difficult and distant.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH THE resignation of the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and the appointment of Sparif Zeid Ben Shaker to form a new government, a new political era starts in the Kingdom and a new chapter opens for the the Jordanians, said Al Ra'i daily Saturday. His Majesty King Hussein's choice of Sharif Zeid to be at the helm of the new government is a wise one since the veteran statesman is capable of dealing with the crucial stage through which Jordan is passing, said the daily. Sharif Zeid is facing rapid changes in the region and a host of chronic sques at the domestic level but he is to be trusted to steer the ship towards safety, said the daily. The outgoing government has no doubt done its best and exerted its utmost efforts in shouldering the heavy responsibilities facing the country and its services to the nation is a source of pride to all Jordanians, added the daily. It is hoped that Sharit Zeid will build on the achievements of the outgoing government and would take measures designed to help deal with the internal issues facing the country.

MAHMOUD RIMAWI discussed a visit to Paris by the iraqi deputy prime minister, Tareq Aziz, and said it was intended to end the U.N. embargo on the Iraqi people. France, which is opening a liaison office in Baghdad now to care for its interests in Iraq, is a major trading partner with that country and its oil firms have major interests in Iraq, Said the writer. Furthermore, France, along with China and Russia are seriously seeking to end the embargo and to end the sufferings of the Iraqi people who have complied fully with the U.N. resolutions since the occupation of Kuwait and the end of the Gulf war, added the writer. Perhaps the opening of the French liaison office at the Romanian embassy in Baghdad would pave the ground for a greater Pressure to be exerted on the world community to end the sanctions of the Iraqi people, continued the writer. The writer said 1995 could see the end of the tragedy of the raqi people who have faced untold sufferings as a result of the unjust embargo.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

IT IS no secret that the exchange of goods across the bridges between Jordan and Palestine is now at a complete standstill. Both sides are not allowing any commodity to be

imported from the other side. In our recent Arab history, we used to describe the relations between Syria and Lebanon under French occupation as special, but this special relationship was followed by a full economic disengagement with independence. Instead of one currency and one central bank, called bank of Syria and Lebanon, the two sister countries decided to go separate. The divorce was dubbed "disen-

The same thing is now taking place between Jordan and Palestine. The relationship was claimed to be distinguished while under Israeli occupation of the West Bank, but it is shifting now to an official break-off under Palestinian self authority, not only at the level of currency and central banking, but also at the level of trade.

As it is well known, Jordan was able to obtain an Israeli consent to allow Jordan to export goods worth up to \$30 million to the West Bank before December 31, 1994. The period expired without any Jordanian commodity being able to cross the bridges to the West Bank. For the first ce one would think that it was Israel, which gave in one hand and took in the other, and that Israeli concessions are revocable without notice, but a Jordanian official corrected this mistake and revealed the fact that it is the Palestinian Authority and not the occupation authority which prevented Jordanian products from reaching the West Bank market, thus hurting not only the Jordanian producers but the Palestinian consumers as well.

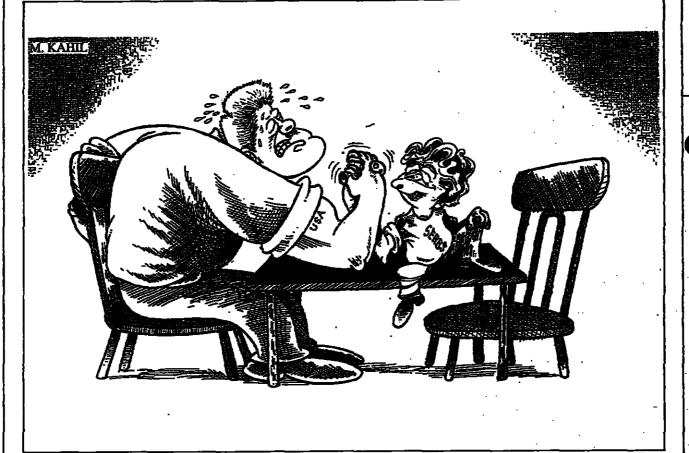
Jordan and Palestine concluded an economic agreement on January 7, 1994, but it was not put into effect because priority was given to the Palestinian - Israeli economic agreement signed in Paris in April 29, 1994, which contradicts the economic agreement with Jordan. The Palestinian side requested reopening the Jordanian — Palestinian agreement for renegotiation, which was met with a Jordanian consent, and a new economic agreement was reached but unfortunately was never signed. Another Palestinian delegation came to Amman to renegotiate once more the unsigned economic draft agreement and reached a new revised one and agreed to form several joint committees to deal with specific issues of mutual interest. As usual all agreements and draft agreements were declared in press conferences accompanied with hot publicity which pleased the public opinion on both sides of the Jordan River.

However, the Palestinian members of the agreed com-

mittees did not show up in Ammanon the agreed dates, and the revised draft agreement was also left unsigned, not because the Palestinian leadership though that the agree-ment was not good enough in itself, in fact it represented a lot of obvious sacrifices on behalf of Jordan and in favour of Palestine regarding unlimited freedom of Palestinian exports and sweeping exemptions of taxes. But the Palestinian leadership was apparently against the principle of entering into agreements with Jordan, because of the alleged competition between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders on gaining the hearts and consequently the allegiance of Palestinians in the West Bank.

Jordan finally found no alternative but to reciprocate and prevent Palestinian products from being imported to Jordan, because the continuation of trade in one direction will result in more accumulation of Jordan dinars in the West Bank to a dangerous level. Palestinian goods in transit to other Arab countries were allowed to flow across

It is surprising that an economic unofficial and unde clared economic war between Jordan and Palestine is in progress while we still talk loudly about a distingunished relationship, and start warming up for trade normalisation with Israel. But what else can we do?



Palestinians must quit peace talks if Israel does not halt settlement

By Pascal B. Karmy

WE OFTEN hear Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other Israeli leaders call for peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs in Israel itself and in the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Unfortunately, the facts on the ground, which are created by the Israeli government policy, especially with regard to the settlements, do not encourage at all this peaceful co-

The latest fierce confrontation, which occurred a few days ago between the Jewish settlers in Efrat settlement and the Israeli army on the one side and the Palestinians, including the Al Khadder village inhabitants, on the other is just one example among This confrontation, re-

sulting from the attempt by

the Efrat settlers, supported by the Israeli army, to usurp Al Khadder village lands show clearly that Israel is still bent on 'robbing' directly or indirectly, thelands of the Palestinians for building more settle-ments in order to surround the Palestinian towns and villages and cut them off from each other or truncate Palestinian territory. In doing so, Israel plans to create a sort of Palestinian "Bantustans" (which the ex-South African governments attempted to establish for the black population) and thus prevent the creation of one whole compact Palestinian sovereion territory in the West Bank

The latest decision of the Israeli government, with regard to the Efrat settlement, was to grant its settiers another land closer to the existing settlement but this decision has not changed the situation as this iand also belongs to Al Khadder villagers. The latter have brandished title deeds in their hands to prove their ownership well before the creation of the Jewish State in 1948. Even assuming that Al Khadder land is public property as the settlers allege, Israel as an 'occupier' under international law cannot dispose of it in the way it wishes. According to the Hague

Regulations (Article 23. G) of 1899 and 1907 as supplement and amplified by Arti-cle 53 the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, occupation does not confer ownership of public land on the occupier. Article 55 of Hague on Regulations specifically provides that: "The occupying state shall be regarded only as administrator and usufructuary of buildings, real estate, forests and agricultural estates belonging to the hostile state and situated in the occupied territory. It must safeguard the capital of these properties and administer them in accordance with the rules of usuf-

ruct." Article 53 of the Geneva Convention prohibits destruction of real or personal public and private property except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations. The same article provides that short of alienation of ownership, the occupier may lease the state property providing its term does not extend beyond the duration of the occupation. Thus it is incontrovertible in law that all settlements

built after 1967 in the West Bank or in Gaza Strip are absolutely illegal as provided in the Hagne Regulations and the Geneva Convention quoted above. They are also illegal in accordance with several United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and in particular 242 and 338, which are embodied in the Osio Accord of Sept. 13 of 1993. In addition, building of settlements is contrary to the letter and spirit of the accords of Sept. 13, 1993 and of May 4, 1994 concluded between Israeli and the PLO. In accordance with Article V, para 4 of the Oslo accord it "the outcome of the permanent status negotiations should not be prejudiced or preempted by agreements reached for the interim period," And for a stronger reason no-thing should be done on the ground such as confiscation or expropriation of Palestinian lands for building settlements, which surely does not only prejudice or preempt the outcome of the

permanent status negotia-

tions but in fact makes of

the Oslo accord a mere

worthless scrap of paper. For if Israel continues to build settlements at the present rate in two years' time. when permanent status negotiations start, there will be no land to negotiate ab-

During the unlamented British mandate over Palestine and after its termination, the basic conflict between the Palestinians and Jews and subsequently Israel revolved around two essential elements, namely: inhabitants and territory. Israel, in connivance with the world Jewry and the Western world, (mainly Britain and the USA), had succeeded by hook and crook to expel the Palestinians from their homeland, Palestine, in 1948. After the war of 1967 and the subsequent occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Israel expelled thousands of Palestinians from those territories in order to bring thousands of Jews from abroad to replace the original inhabi-tants. For Jewish immigration, Israel could not have been established.

As regards territory, which is the second element in the conflict between the Jews and the Palestinians, Israel considered the lands and properties of the Palestinians, who were expelled from Palestine, whether in 1948 or in 1967. as what Israel called "Absentee Property". With this ruthless colonising mentality which has no parallel in modern history, Israel took possession of this property and confis-cated it for the benefit of the state of Israel and some of which were sold or hired to build settlements. When Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip it did likewise with the so-called "Absentee Property" and feverishly built thousands of settlements especially in Jerusalem and around it.

It is, therefore, absolutely imperative that the Palestine National Authority (PNA) stand firm vis-a-vis israel on the question of settlements, even if that is likely to stop the peace process. The PNA should refuse to proceed with the peace process until Israel actually stops building or fattening settlements at the expense of Palestinian land as this is the core of the

wise, how can the PNA convince the Palestinian people of the national benefits of the peace process, if it does not take positive action to protect Palestinian territory. The Palestinians do not want a farcical peace but a genuine one, which will enable them to live on their own territory and to decide their destiny. And if Israel aspires for peace and co-existence with the Palestinians, it must pursue these goals with honesty therefore stop actions which are likely to destroy or hinder the peace process. Otherwise Israel will lose its

the Arab countries as well. Israel must realise that the PLO had taken great risks when it concluded the Oslo accord in 1993, and indeed it must be grateful to the PLO as with this accord the way was opened for Israel to conclude the peace agreement with Jordan on Oct. 26, 1994 and to establish amicable links with some other Arab states.

credibility not only vis-a-vis

the Palestinians but with

It is relevant to this article to quote Mr. John Whitbeck's wise advice to the Israeli leaders in his article "Israel's Choice: Palestinian Statehood or Chaos" published in the Jordan Times on January 3, 1995;

"Logically, only one viable option remainsaccepting Palestinian sovereignty in the Palestiman lands occupied in 1967 subject to an agreed formala for an equitable sharing of a physically individed Jerusalem. It is high time for Israeli leaders to stop pretending that the earth is flat and to actually lead by telling their people clearly and honestly that Palesti nian statehood is essential if a lasting peace in the Middie East is ever to be achieved and is thus fundamentally in the interests

of Israel and Israelis. Actually, there is one other alternative to Palestinian statebood — chaos and an explosion of frustration and violence on a scale previously unimagined. This explosion will not wait until 1999 if Israel does not soon make clear that the 'peace' process' is leading to a destination which Palestinians are likely to prefer an honourable martyrdom,"

Customs duties on cars: Where is the logic?

To the Editor:

MY STORY is a familiar one like many others who have a car in this country under a temporary entry permit. The big difference in my story is the fact that my car has been brought over from America. How many other car owners have shipped their car from America and have it here in Jordan under a temporary entry permit? I would be extremely surprised if the number is more than a few. I extremely surprised if the number is more than a few. I wonder why that is? I will tell you. The majority of people

could not and would not pay the shipping costs.

Before shipping my car from America last year, I checked for several months with personnel in the Customs Department, the Royal Automobile Club, etc. regarding the regulations surrounding such a procedure. I was assured time after time that I could bring my car into Jordan and could keep it here for at least one or two years, renewing the temporary permit as required. As a result, decided to bring my car over and keep it with me until I

Please tell me who would be naive enough to ship his/her car into this country, particularly all the way from America, if he/slie knew they would end, up having to pay customs duties on it or skiip it back out after only a couple of mouths of using it? I can tell you right ago that no one would lit's not like I come from Syria, Sandi Arabi or any other neighbouring country and one accell dispersion country and one accell dispersion of the neighbouring country and can easily drive/ship it back

I do understand the government's concern about the cars that are already in the country; but, why not impose these new regulations on incoming cars brought in from neighbouring countries? I am not being biased here but I think that people from neighbouring countries can easily take their cars back to their country in a matter of days and for almost \$3,000 for shipping, insurance, etc. One might think of the fact that sooner or later I will be shipping my car back home, but why would I ship it back now when my family and I are not ready to leave (i.e. children in school husband working) and my resident permit doesn't even expire until October 1995? I wonder whether the Customs Department or anyone in charge has a solution?

Tamara Streaming-Shiyab

Let children live in a better world

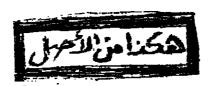
To the Editor:

ENCOURAGING, reassuring and exciting is the news that the world has been able to achieve over the past 50 years more than it has achieved over the last two milleniums. according to the United Nation's Fund (UNICEF's) 1995 State of the World Children's Report (SWCR). The report, launched simultaneously throughout the world, says life expectancy at birth has increased from 40 years to 60 years, infant mortality has dropped from 300 to 100 per 1,000, live births, and children's rights which have remained a taboo until recently, have been recognised by more than 176 countries worldwide.

Yet, the world has a long way to go if it is to achieve the goals accepted by the world leaders at the 1990 World Summit for Children (WSC). The goals cover health, nutrition, education, human rights and water and sanitation-related areas. The report estimates that an additional amount of \$30-\$40 billion will be needed every year until the year 2000 to meet these goals. The SWCR, UNICEF's yearly publication, aruges that the amount needed to achieve the 1990s goals for children is as much as the world spends of golf (\$40 billion), and less than half of what it spends on wine (\$85 billion). It also represents one-tenth of the world's spending on tobacco and one-twentieth of what it spends on armament. Therefore, the idea that the world cannot afford this additional amount is absurd and no longer acceptable. If the world is serious about translating its promises to children into action, then it should be able to provide this additional amount to ensure a better world for its children. With the end of the cold war and establishment of peace in our region, part of the enormous amounts of money which were spent on arms of destruction can now be redirected to investments benefitting children, and helping them grow to their full potential as productive and active members of society.

Jala Azzeh,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's fail name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



King's letter outlines priorities of government

(Continued from page 1)

ple and helping them achieve their national objectives and asked Sharif Zeid to continue to extend whatever assistance the country could extend to the Palestinians

The King reiterated his resolve to continue to serve his role as the custodian of the holy shrines in Jerusalem in the name of the Muslim nation "through our best abilities... until (Jerusalem's) status is addressed in a proper and acceptable manner. Following is a Jordan Times translation of the King's letter of designation to

Dear Brother Sharif Zeid Ben

Peace be upon you

Sharif Zeid:

I send you my affection and deep appreciation, coupled by deep confidence in your person and your loyalty and allegiance. You have always served as my companion even in darkest days since we started the task of building the nation and laving the foundation for its progress as charted by the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein.

I have known you throughout the long journey as a young Hashemite with strong resolve as you served as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and you have been the right man on whom one can depend whenever the nation required your services to shoulder the difficult responsibilities

I have entrusted you more than once with the formation of a government in Jordan to help the country out of its crisis and your performance was exemplary, reflecting integrity, sacrifice and efficiency. You have risen to the occasion every time, like any one of the Hashemite family serving your nation and your

Now that the country has, with God's grace and with the efforts of its people, overcome a very critical stage in its history during which it enhanced its steadfastness and democracy and sought to regain its land and water

After all this has been accomplished, we find that we are now entering a new stage with new givens and new requirements that demand mobilisation of all energies and efforts so that we can deal with what is ahead with vigilance and comprehension so as to complement the construction to hance the sense of tolerance and promote pluralism while we carry out drastic reform in economy, education and public administration.

Based on all this and in the light of the resignation of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, I would like to entrust you with the formation of a new government, hoping it will overcome the difficulties of the present stage aided by whoever you select of efficient and promising personalities to shoulder the heavy responsibilities and to confront the challenges of the coming stage with confidence and capability.

We reaffirm that the government should ensure the rule of the law as a priority and to protect security and ensure stability and to enhance the democratic march within the framework of a strong phyralism and in an atmosphere of tolerance and integrity and to consolidate national unity

At this stage, when we see people are obsessed by various feelings of optimism or expecting drastic changes in their lives in the era of peace and as we witness some others discouraged as they are not convinced by peace and are acting towards its failure against the will of this steadfast people who had offered so many sacrifices, our people are able to shoulder their responsibilities and confident that they would achieve their objectives in a promising future, with God's

we hope that the era of peace would bring with it further stability, power and construction and therefore we at this stage require the creation of the state of institutions with fully modernised legalisation and modernised administration with

efficient personnel. We expect the government to encourage the spirit of teamwork in every field and in spreading awareness among the members of the public about their rights and their duty, placing Jordan's highest interests above all other considerations.

Of course, all this requires full commitment to the Constitution and the principles of

the National Charter to ensure equality among people who are true and faithful to their forefathers in raising high the standards of the Great Arab Revolt and who offer refuge to all free and honourable people fleeing iniustice and oppression.

Within this same context, the personnel of all our security apparatus who protect the security of the citizen and the safety of the country and about plots by its enemies should also be provided with what they need to remain able. as we have always known them, to perform their sacred national duty in safeguarding stability and security, utilising the best and most modern techniques, and realising always that our people, to whom they belong and whom they protect, support them and help them in carrying out their duties towards this dear country.

Some of the requirements of the new stage call us to review a lot of our plans in various fields and to adopt planning methods based on well-studied scientific methodology, taking into consideration the needs of the homeland and analysing the dimensions of the problems facing it, and offering solutions to them within our independent national abilities capabilities and will.

Thus, the youth should be aided and their abilities should be organised and directed in a way benefitting the country, through having organised and studied voluntary works at the level of the whole country. Directing the youth to vocational training and respecting manual work is a national responsibility that we all should give our due care and concern in order to meet the needs of the Jordanian labour market of a growing trained Jordanian force that would be able to replace the expatriate force that has been browing in unacceptable ratios.

There also should be awareness campaigns stressing the need to have the professional associations and unions working in their fields, keeping in mind their basic duties and raison d'etre to improve the performance of their members. This work by the associations will be: met by the country's gratitude to improving profes and to the job opportunities they provide to their members instead of remaining standstill and repeating political cliches and indulging in work the associations were not originally established to reasons to deal with.

In the fields of education, culture and information, we stress the need to improve the level of education to the best humanitarian conditions and to care for national education which should teach our sons and daughters love rather than fear, to have creative thinking rather than be mere recipients of information, to bolster feelings of belonging rather than be followers and which teach tolerance rather than fanatic-

Our universities in which we take pride should also be centres promoting freedom of thinking, expression and dialogue, centres for creative scientific research through which Jordanians would enrich the human achievements in science, research and knowledge. Our universities need support to be able to rise to a distinguished level based on quality of high performance and not on achievements based on quantities, deepness and clarity of vi-

Care of Al al Bait University should be in the forefront of your government's concerns so as to become, God willing, the centre of light we always wanted for the contemporary Islamic poli-cy in which the best of the nation's scientists, scholars, researchers and students par-

Regarding culture, the guarantee of the freedom of the intellectual enables him/ her to be creative and able to express the thoughts and feelings of the people. Therefore supporting our cultural in-stitutions and providing the means of an honest living and continued care to the creative intellectuals is something we ask you to take into consid-

In addition, encouraging openness to the world and the cultural and intellectual development in it are basic requirements for the growth of a distinguished Jordanian cultural movement.

The mass media which carry the image of the new Jordan should express the spirit of this country, the march of its people and its democratic

climate as it presents to the nation an example of the best images of the relationship between freedom, consciousness and the defence of the nation's interests. Thus, reconsidering and reevaluating the performance of our media institutions is the first

step on the way to building the modern Jordanian information institution that is able to convey the message of this country through a free press attractive by its credi-bility and balanced reporting the best of the nation's writers and opening satellite, radio and television channels to every pure voice believing in the message of the nation and its future, and enhancing relations between Jordanian expatriates and their homeland and families and conveying to them the role of these dear sons and daughters around the world, raising the country's name every-

Concerning the Jordanian press, it requires that a select group of experts review leg-islation to ensure its continuous development towards a distinguished level, expressing the spirit and values of the country and keeping away from instigation and demagogery and everything not ng to the values and national identity of this peo-

As we are keen to protect the freedom of speech, we at the same time affirm our rejection to any trying to harm our democratic march by using this tolerant freedom and by creeping to the ranks of our national march for one purpose or another, prompted by others who har-bour ill-feelings towards this country.

Some of them were clear in their determination to distort the image of the country and to continue to undermine its credibility at all levels, contributing to the decline in the quality of printed materials to level which we fear would, if it continues, create reactions that would harm the freedom of the speech and expression which we are keen protect. The loss of this and that in this sea of deterioration, in case it occurs, God forbid, would not be representing our people and would have no relation to us

The areas of reform required at this stage include: work towards completing the infrastructure and its modernisation, finalising legislations for the protection of the environment, planning for industry and tourism and orgatheir needs for development along modern bases and these should be accomplished as soon as

All the aforementioned mestions take into consideration also issues that acquire absolute importance at the foremost of which lies the task of confronting and dealing with unemployment and

This would require the most strenuous efforts within the framework of comprehensive development in economy, investment, and administrative reform and also in creating the climate for the private sector to play its national role in conjunction with the public sector in industry and in agriculture as well as other fields.

There is urgent need to deal with the requirements of the Royal Jordanian (RJ) with a view to consolidating its fleet of aircraft and modemising it so that the national airline can carry out its mission and retain its mission of linking Jordan with the rest of the world serving as ambassador of Jordan to the other nations of the world. Providing health care to the largest sector of the public, supporting the (institutions) which provide assistance to the needy families. expanding the umbrella of social security, giving due attention to agriculture in the

light of the restored Jordaman rights in land and water, and constructing dams and the best and most efficient ntilisation of water resources are part of the new govern-ment's responsibilities which we hope would be carried out so that the country can best

benefit from them as a whole. Comprehensive reform requires distinguished qualified and loyal people who are fully aware of the requirements of the present stage, people who are fully honest and have integrity which would not allow for deviation or tampering with or abusing of public positions at the expense of public interests and

Therefore the reconstruction process which we have announced and the change which we require can never be achieved by wishful think-

ing or overnight. It requires time, effort and perseverance, patience. It also reomres security, stability and constructive work with a clear vision and with confi-

dence that we are certain to attain our objectives. For this to be achieved we most reaffirm that this nation, which God has blessed with the capacity of patience and steadfastness enjoying legitimate leadership, revolution and history and accomplishments, requires from all of us to contribute — each from his or her own position - with all our might to re-build and defend it and its image and name with the same spirit with which our brave soldiers are defending it along the border, protect-

ing its security and stability. We want this country's information well defended and its voice carried to all parts of the world in the purest and most beautiful form, reflecting the country's Arab and tolerant Muslim nature. This country deserves a great deal to be talked about as it carries a noble mission and carries out a duty for the whole

We hope that in the coming few years we will attain the complete image of a state of institutions and a state ruled by law with their relations governed by the provisions of the Constitution in such a balance that would not allow one institution to have the upper hand over the other or infringe upon its

Therefore we would like to reaffirm the need to lay the foundation of dialogue and in a climate that allows each party to air its views with reedom and honesty.

The executive authority should handle matters related to the country's needs with developed vision and with efficiency that should not be impeded by bureaucracy and a country where Parliament can play its role monitoring government performance and islation, and we want the judicial authority to retain its independence which must be supported with all means so that it can carry out its responsibilities.

We thank God for everything that has been achieved for this country through the help of its citizens and we thank God for the bright image Jordan has before the world. We could not have achieved all this without the continued and relentless efforts of the Jordanian citizens — both the migrants and the supporters. This country has always been offering the g eatest sacrifices to its nation and honouring its commitments despite its meagre resources and small size.

After the biggest Arab sister country has chosen the path of peace and after we have chosen ours in a general congress, we have moved forth starting from the same point together towards the path of peace, following others who benefitted from this country's umbrella and offering others all services allowing them the right to choose their own way to-

This country had all the right and duty to move towards peace with raised heads and determination and with a clear vision to arrive at peace which it will remain committed to maintain and respect in word and spirit, allowing Jordanians to build a prosperous future.

Peace which has returned to this country restored Jordan's sovereignty over its land and water. It was a peace blessed by God becanse we wanted to attain just, honorable and comprehensive peace, and regain for the coming generations their rights after decades of sacri-

fices and sufferings. We hope that the whole region would reach a just, lasting and comprehensive peace which achieves security to its peoples and enables our people to continue their march on solid foundations under the guidance of the principles and values they are still defending. We also hope this peace would enhance the people's confidence in themselves to be able to counter everyone who does not want this country to remain a glow-

ing Arab star and to continue calling on the Arab people to begin the new age, feeling free, secure and dignified.

We like to stress here that we sock to strengthen the foundations of peace and to make our new and existing international relations steered in a conscious manner within our best capabilities and abilities towards achieving a comprehensive and just peace serving the best of all peoples.

Our keemess in our nation, its freedom, resources, future and independence is something we have committed ourselves to in our historic march. We have participated in its battles against its enemies and sought to mend fences among Arab countries whenever there were disputes and we always were advocates of unity, solidarity and integration among the brethren, seeking to put aside differences and disunity among them with open hearts full of love and affection without any signs of weakness, negligence and subjuga-

Our efforts to resolve Arab differences within the context of the one Arab home have been meessant. For many times, we have warned of the danger of seditions which emerged in various forms and which made many parts of the Arab World fall victim to hunger, fighting and siege and undermined it in the face of challenges and difficulties.
Our nation is a living one

that is able to rise. Its new resurrection should start. We in Jordan seek to be in the front of those calling for its freedom and working to plan for future generations, detached from fear, hunger, fanaticism, and domination

by others. What we would like to focus on at this stage, again, is the issue of Jordan's status in the world and the need to solidify it, enhance relations with other world countries and nations in a way serving the goals of these relations and achieving the best relations of cooperation with them on the basis of mutual respect, to serve the interests of the country, preserve the interests of the nation and to defend righteonsness and principles, and thus consequently consolidate Jordan's status, fole and presence m the new humanitarian scene.

Our national history was and is still is a chain of related links of defending of the rights of the nation, namely the right of the Palestinian people to regain its rights which we hope its leadership, hich has shouldered the re sponsibility of representing it with the unanimous bless of the Arabs, will achieve. Here, we stress our keenness to support the Palestinian people and to continue to extend care to the nation's holy sites in Holy Jerusalem through our best abilities to protect this trust in the name of the nation until its status is addressed in a proper and

acceptable manner. As we hope the next government would seek to achieve what was mentioned in this letter in a clear vision and with well-studied plans, specified timetables, and sincere Jordanian determination, we wish you and your colleagues the best of luck in your endeavour, hoping that your efforts will be crowned with success, and waiting to receive the names of your kind colleagues who will shoulder these national and pan-Arab responsibilities

with you. You will find me with you and with this Jordanian people for whom I lived and will live as long as God would want me in this life, working on strengthening its stalwart structure and serving its best interests, glory, pride, stability, security, peace, progress and prosperity, having this duty as the ultimate trust, commitment and honour, ris ing with all of it, feeling proud of my belonging to the family of God's prophet, may peace be upon him, and to the people of the dear Jordan, the country of my birth. The honour of belonging to them will be a source of pride for me as long as I live. I seek nothing in this world but God's blessing and satisfac-

Irag hails close ties with Paris

(Continued from page 1)

follow France's example and Kuwait rejects offer recognise Baghdad's prog-

But France's decision was dismissed in Washington by State Department spokes woman Christine Shelly who said, "now is not the time to make gestures toward Iraq."

Kuwait has rejected Bagh dad's offer to swap two jailed Kuwaitis for Iraqis sentenced to death in the emirate for trying to kill former U.S. President George Bush, a newspaper said on Saturday.

Sharif Zeid to announce cabine

(Continued from page 1) we believe we could accept. It would not be acceptable that our participation be res-tricted to portfolios that do not correspond to the size and weight of the front," a leading IAF deputy told the

Jordan Times. As consultations were over with most parliamentary blocs by Saturday evening, sources said that the 18member National Action Front could be represented in the new Cabinet by three deputies, the 10-member Jordanian National Pront by the, the 10-member National Democratic Coalition by up to five in addition to independent lawmakers.

But sources said that some parliamentarians were trying to exert pressure to get more members of their blocs on Sharif Zeid's team, which is expected to include up to 14 lawmakers.

The National Action Front members who are expected to be in the new cabinet are deputies Abdul Hadi Al Majah (Karak), Rateb Al Sand (Tafileh) and Tawfiq Kreishan (Ma'an). Representatives of the

Jordanian National Bloc are expected to be the group's president, Jamal Al Chreisheh (central bedouins) and Mohammad Njadat (southern bedouins). Deputies Samir Kawar (Balqa), Saleh Irsheidat (Irbid). Muneer Souber (Amman), Aref Bataineh (Irbid) and Abdul Karim Kabariti (Agaba) are expected to be the representatives of the National Democratic Coalition in the new cabinet.

The independent deputies

Ali Abul Al Ragheb (Am official at Noor Al Huse man), Samir Habashneh Foundation, could receive (Karak), Awad Khleifar the portfolio of social (Ma'an), Abdul Karim Al velopment. Dughmi (Mafraq) and Jamel Sarairch (Karak).

While the sources were refuctant to speculate on the portfolios the possible ministers are expected to hold due to possible last-minute changes, they said that two persons were still being considered for the key foreign affairs portfolio.

They said that it was not decided by Saturday evening whether the portfolio will go to the King's political adviser Marwan Al Qassem or promment Deputy Kabariti, who heads the Lower House's Foreign Affairs Committee and who played an instrumental role in the passage of the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel through Parlia-

The sources expected Shar-Zeid's consultations with lawmakers to end in a satisfactory manner, thus guaranteeing the new cabinet a wider parliamentary base than that of its predecessor. In a telephone conversation on Thursday, House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour said, the prime ministerate had made clear to him his willingness to develop relations with the House and maintain consultations with its members.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports said that Sharif Zeid's cabinet could include two women; Rima Khalaf, minister of industry and trade in the outgoing government, is expected to be moved to the Ministry of Planning, and tipped to be in the cabient are Salwa Damen-Masri, a senior

Sources said that amo. ministers in the outgoi." cabinet who are expected in retain their posts are: Same Kawar (transportation Saleh Irsheidat (water ar irrigation), Aref (health), Abdul Razzas Tubeishat (public works Tawfiq Kreishan (municip and rural affairs and the en vironment), Salameh Harri mad (interior) and Hisbar

Other candidates said to ha Al Tel (justice). under consideration for the Interior Ministry were Javidat Shoul, Abdul Hadi Managara jali and Jamal Kreisha.

Taher Hikmat is a possib candidate to assume the Ministry of Justice if Mr. Te. does not join the new Following are the por-

folios that others tipped to on Sharif Zeid's team cou

Ali Abul Racheb (industry and trade), Abdul Karim Kabariti (foreign affairs C. information), Awad Khleifa. (youth), Samir Habashness (agriculture), Jamal Saraire or Mohammad Adoub A. Zaben (post and communications), Ibrahim Izzeddine ministry affairs and administrative reform). Khaled Karaki (deputy prima minister and another portfolio) and Ahmad Hulayye

(Awqaf). There was no information on the portfolios that Kame Al Ailouni, Muneer Souber and Mohammad Abu Olein: would receive if they join Sharif Zeid's cabinet.

Dr. Tibi told the news con-

ference in East Jerusalem

that references to the Sneh-

Kanaan meeting were in-

serted in the book by one of

Abu Mazen's aides without

Abn Mazen was currently in

Cairo and unavailable for im-

In Palestinian-ruled Gaza

Mr. Alafat's spokesman de-

Israel Radio reported that

the author's knowledge.

mediate comment.

PLO in Labour win sparks row

(Continued from page 1) with the PLO, dismissed the report as "rubbish and

Talk of such coordination was "the product of an illintentioned imagination," he

The radio said Mr. Speh speaking for Mr. Rabin, had told the PLO that in return for his help the Labour Party was "ready to discuss every thing concerning the Palesti-

nian question:" Mr. Arafat and Mr. Abbas replied that "we have received all your messages and will do everything to help you in the elections," the radio

The radio added that the secret contacts had been led for the Palestinians by Said Kanaan, a Nablus business-

firmed the information saying 'everything in Abu Mazen's Israel, under Mr. Rabin,

research centre. They said he had consigned a historic peace accord

with the PLO in September 1993. Abu Mazen was one of the architects of the agreement on Palestinian self-rule.

"The entire story of coordination between us and the PLO is a lie," Mr. Sneh told Israel Radio, referring to the reported contacts in 1992. (Rabin) did not send me to coordinate anything with the

He said he had met Mr. Kanami, at Mr. Kanaan's request, in the run up to the nied cooperation with 1992 elections but the talks had not been important.

Mr. Rabin's office and several Labour ministers said they stood behind Mr. Sneh's

Mr. Kanaan, in a telephone interview with Renters, said he and Mr. Sneh nal Israeli politics. "We discussed the best ways to support the negotiations in Washington,

"It is a false accusation. Neither the PLO nor the Palestinian Authority have participated in any way against or with any of the

≈Labour:

Israeli political parties in the elections or in any other matter." Marwan Kanafani said. Another Mr. Arafat

Rudeina, accused Israeli radio of "distorting" Abu Mazen's words "Abu Mazen's diary has been badly interpreted and what has been published is

false," Abu Rudeina said,

Russian general killed in Grozny

Kanaan said. "We did not

touch on any other subjects."

especially those dealing with

(Continued from page 1) Olga, 28, one of hundreds who braved icy weather to celebrate in central Moscow. The former Soviet authorities had long frowned on Christmas festivities.

Some Russians back the official line that troops were sent into Grozny to wipe out "bandit groups," but most seem shocked by fighting which has killed hundreds of

Many Russians questioned by Reuters on Saturday were particularly upset at Mr. Yeltsin's rejection of a plea by his human rights commissioner Sergei Kovalyov to declare a ceasefire in time for Christmas.

"I have two sons who are due to do their military service. What if they get sent to Chechenya?" cried Galina, a woman in her fifties.

Mr. Yeltsin himself made no direct mention of Chechenya in the Christmas message he delivered at a ball in the Kremlin, ITAR-TASS news agency said on Satur-

day.
This brilliant day has been observed in the world from time immemorial and old Russia celebrated it festively and on a large scale. It is being revived now, as is our homeland, great and muchsuffering Russia," it quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying. German Chancellor Hei-

mut Kohl, branding the bloodshed in Chechenya "complete madness," led a growing Western chorus of concern at Moscow's attempt to crush Chechen separatism. Dr. Kohl appealed to President Yeltsin, to silence the guns and seek a negotiated

Mr. Kohl's foreign minis-ter, Klaus Kinkel, alluding to speculation in some Western capitals and in Moscow that

Mr. Yeltsin might not be in total control of his military machine, urged the Russian leader to enforce his will over the army.

"We see people suffering, civilians, women and children, we see victims among the soldiers and regard it all as complete madness." Mr. Kohl told Berlin's 100.6 radio station. "Those who don't see it

like that, must have lost all: their human emotions." Bonn and other Western capitals have been guarded in their condemnation of Russia's campaign to suppress the Chechens' tirree-year bid for autonomy. But on Saturday, Danish

Hackkerup said his government had suspended a defence co-operation pact with Russia because of the attack. Denmark has already voiced support for an initiative by European Union (EU) External Affairs Commissioner Hans van den Brock to suspend talks on an

Defence Minister Hans

interim EU trade and partnership accord. In the Egyptian capital Cairo, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said he and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had both expressed concern over the fighting.

"Both the president and I expressed concern about the instability that is being caused by the fighting in Chechenya and by the levels of civilian casualties...

there," he said. U.S. President Bill Clinton, who had kept a low profile since Moscow poured thousands of troops and hundreds of tanks into Chechenya, finally interceded on Friday and urged Mr. Yeltsia in a letter to seek a negotiated settlement.

Both the Netherlands and

France condemned Russia's campaign on Friday and British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd said he had sent a message to Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev ex-

pressing his deep concern.

Western diplomats have warned that the bloody assault on the Chechen capital could have incalculable consequences for the future of democracy and for Moscow's economic reforms. Libya has called for an

emergency meeting of Isla-mic foreign ministers on the conflict raging in Chechenya. Libya made its request to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) at the beginning of the week and it has been passed to the 51 other members of the pan-Islamic group.
So far they have not given

their response, diplomats close to the OIC in its Jeddah headquarters said. Under the OIC's rules, two-thirds of the membership has to agree to hold an

emergency meeting. At the end of December OIC Secretary General Hamed Algabid called for a negotiated settlement and denounced the "blind and indiscriminate use of weapons on

civilian targets." Though the death of the Russian general and the wounding of the two officers represented a success for the Chechen rebels, who have so far claimed the lives of 256 Russians according to Moscow, the mood in Grozny appeared to be changing

Saturday. The remorseless Russian artillery barrage directed against the centre of the city was beginning to shake the self-confidence of its defenders and they were starting to speak of the possibility that it might fall.



Gulf states may emulate Saudi budget cut—economists

KUWAIT (R) - Other Gulf states are likely to copy Saudi carabia's planned cuts in goverament spending and increases in petrol prices in 1995, en economics consultancy said Saturday.

These measures may encourage other Gulf states to fellow suit, as it is customary in these states to imitate or copy each other in policy matters," the Al Shall Consuitancy said in a weekly market report.

The consultancy, headed he parliamentary economics called the measures a positive

Gulf states have spunged adopting such measuras... it is well known that ine subsidy level for these

services is substantial and leads to consumption waste that has rendered some Gulf states unable to undertake investments adequate to meet increasing consump-tion," it said.

The Saudi budget announced last week cuts spending by 10 billion rivals (\$2.7 billion) to 150 billion (\$40 billion) and raises income by 15 billion (\$4 billion) to 135 billion (\$36 billion). Economists and diplomats

have said that although the spending cut was smaller than the 20 per cent budgeted in 1994, the overall impact was to more than halve the budget deficit.

Knwaiti newspapers have said the emirate is likely to emulate Saudi's example and

services to help curb its own budget gap, equivalent to a quarter of gross domestic product.

Kuwait's 1994/95 budget entailed a big rise of 20 per cent in the deficit but attempts to curb costs by providing for higher service charges on industry.

The net shortfall is pro-jected at 1.502 billion dinars (\$5 billion), a 23 per cent rise on the originally projected 1993/94 net deficit of 1.223 billion (\$4.1 billion).

Gulf war-related expenses

including repairing damaged 1993 period. oilfields, cost Kuwait tens of billions of dollars and more than halved its once large foreign investment empire.

U.S. sees worsening trade deficit this year

WASHINGTON (R) — The overall U.S. trade deficit is likely to worsen further this year as America's voracious appetite for imports remains strong, the U.S. Treasury

Department has said.
"We expect the U.S. trade and current account deficit to continue to widen in 1995. albeit at a declining rate," the treasury said in its semiannual report to Congress on international economic poli-

The U.S. current account deficit - which measures trade in goods as well as services such as banking -widened to \$90.48 billion in the first 10 months of this year from \$63.67 billion in the like

Besides forecasting a big-ger U.S. trade deficit in 1995, the Treasury Department report painted a mostly upbeat

campaign to defend China's

picture of the global economic outlook, with strong growth and modest inflation. The report also absolved China of using its currency to gain an unfair advantage for

its goods on world markets, saying that Beijing had made major strides" in reforming its foreign exchange rate syscial crisis in Mexico. tem over the past year. But it also made clear that China needed to do more to liberal-

At the same time, the report emphasised again that the U.S. authorities backed a strong dollar, saying it would help keep inflation low and support confidence in financial markets.

ise its currency market.

"The administration supports a strong dollar," the watched report.

Treasury said in the closely The dollar has lost ground over the past year, although

over the past two months it well under way, with inflation has shown signs of stabilising, holding at relatively low thanks partly to dollar buying and repeated interest rate increases by the United States.

But it remains vulnerable to sporadic attacks, taking a temporary dip before recovering somewhat, for instance, because of the finan-

The Treasury painted an upbeat picture of the outlook this year for the economies of the Group of Seven - Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

"The U.S. position is shared generally among the Group of Seven authorities, who agree that, in prevailing economic conditions, a decline of the dollar is neither justified nor desirable," the

report said. Global recovery is now levels," Acting Treasury Secretary Frank Newman said in a statement accounpanying the report.

The Treasury said that Group of Seven growth should reach close to 3.0 per cent last year and could exceed that rate in 1995.

The continental European economies are recovering and so too is Japan, although more hesitantly, it said.
As for the United States, the repeated interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve have "begun to show

some signs of slowing demand," the Treasury said. It added that the United States, Canada and Britain will probably see a "very modest increase" in inflation this year, counterbalanced by in Germany and continued progress in Italy.
That does not mean though that the outlook is "without blemishes," it said.

Japan's trade surplus remains high but has started to decline, it said, adding that a further modest reduction is expected in 1995 as domestic demand strengthens in

Japan." At the same time, the Treasury warned Japan against premature tightening of fiscal and monetary policy which could undermine the country's budding recovery.

The Treasury also said it saw "no evident need" for tighter monetary policy in continental Europe. Unemployment there remains very high and is not expected to fall substantially anytime

iobless rate rumoles to 5.4%

T/ASMINGTON (R) - The U.S. unemployment rate unexpectedly tumbled to 5.4 per zent in December, its lowest evel in 41/2 years, as 1994 ended with the largest munber of new jobs generated in a decade, the Labour Department said Friday.

It said the jobless rate fell to 5.4 per cent last month From 5.6 per cent in Novemper. A total of 256,000 jobs were created outside the farm sector last month after a retrised jump of 488,000 in November.

The December jobless rate was the lowest since 5.4 per cent in July 1990. The memployment rate has fallen 1.3 percentage points since the mart of 1994.

The November rise in payroli jobs was the biggest since October 1987, when 550,000 jobs were created. The Nevember rise previousiy was reported as 350,000. The department said a total of 3.5 million jobs were created outside the farm sector in 1994, the biggest yearly

increase since a jump of 3.9 million in 1984. New jobs were added last month in manufacturing and at bars and restaurants and a variety of other establish-

Wages rose a moderate 0.3 per cent in December, a forther sign that inflation pressures remain in check. The report adds to evidence the economy ended 1994 with a a burst of strength. But economists expect growth will slow in the first quarter of 1995 as the six interest-rate hikes en-

Economists expect the Fed will vote to boost rates again when its policy arm meets at the end of January in a bid to the economy.

China orders nationwide anti-piracy boycott BEIJING (R) — Beijing has ordered a nation-

al boycott of pirated goods, intensifying a campaign in an attempt to avert a potentially disastrous trade war with Washington over theft of intellectual property in China.

China also will amend its three-year-old copyright law in 1995 to "adapt (it) to the changing situation," the official Xinhua news agency quoted a state copyright administration spokesman as

saying.

The "changing situation" appeared to be a codeword for what Washington alleges is the proliferating piracy of copyrights, patents and trademarks by Chinese firms - many of them government

owned and operated. "The (copyright law) amendment will bring coordination between protecting owners of foreign copyrights and their Chinese counterparts, and will serve to protect some new rights," Xinhua said without giving details.

Piracy is central to a deepening rift between Beijing and Washington, which on Dec. 31 threatened to punish China with stiff tariffs on \$2.8 billion worth of its exports from Feb. 4 unless it acts to address U.S. con-

China pledged tit-for-tat sanctions against U.S. goods if the U.S. tariffs are imposed, raising the spectre of a Pacific trade war that would damage both countries, Hong Kong and other interdependent economies.

U.S. negotiators last month broke off talks aimed at ending the crisis, saying China had made no serious offers. New talks are expected before the February deadline. With the talks on hold, the

position — that it has made rapid progress against piracy but cannot be expected to wipe out the scourge over-

But the state copyright administration went a step further in calling for a nationwide boycott of businesses "suspected of engaging in piracy," acknowledging the government's failure to educate the public about intellectual property rights.

"China has established an advanced copyright protection system, but ordinary people are still lacking in copyright awareness," allowing pirates to thrive, the spokesman said. "More and more people

will see the long-term benefits as they become aware of the fact that it is (China) and they themselves who will suffer the effects of piracy in the end." he said. Washington has denounced Beijing's failure to close 29 South China plants, some state-owned, that have been pressing 75 million pirated compact discs a year, largely for export.

China countered Wednesday that it had seized 1.58 million pirated books and 2.2 million bootleg CDs' last

The official legal daily said Wednesday that authorities had closed a Beijing bookstore for "rectification" after finding that it had pirated tens of thousands of copies of Hong Kong published works.

The boycott campaign will urge citizens to report suspected copyright pirates promptly to the authorities. They will not have to look far. Pirated CDs, books, computer software, videotapes can be found readily at street stalls and

even in state shops in most

major Chinese cities.

U.S. publishers, film studios, software firms and other copyright owners have calculated that their industry loses \$827 million a year to Chinese pirates.

Xinhua questioned the sincerity of the alleged losses, saying U.S. firms had filed only 20 copyright intringe-ment suits with Beijing's intellectual property court and that only two had been handled by the copyright agency.

Losses are not limited to copyrighted works. China has nched repeated campaigns against pirates who counter-feit almost any kind of product that is in consumer demand - whether it is of

foreign or local origin.

Bootleg copies of Rolex watches, the famous Chinese banquet liquor Moutai, Lux soap bars, Tabasco chili sauce and even Cherokeemodel jeeps have been seized

Turkey signs memorandum to buy Qatari gas

DOHA (R) - Turkey, which needs natural gas to feed its national pipeline network, is to buy liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar for 25 years under a memorandum

of understanding the two countries signed Saturday. Turkey's Energy Minister Veysel Atasoy, who arrived in Doha Friday, signed the memorandam with Qatari Energy Minister Abdullah Al Attivah for two million tonnes a year of LNG and an option for two million tonnes

It "will be converted into a letter of intent (on Sunday) when Botas and Rasgas ini-tial the agreement," Mr. Attiyah told reporters. The first shipment could start in

Qatar has well-developed plans for two huge LNG projects, one of which is already being built. The second — Ras Laffan Liquefied Gas Co. (Rasgas), the one that would supply Turkey — is still at the stage of signing up

long-term customers.
Rasgas will sign the letter of intent with Botas, Turkey's state pipeline company which buys and transports

Rasgas is designed to produce 10 million tonnes of LNG at a cost of about \$9 billion but would probably start with a smaller version which could be expanded. It is due to go on stream in mid-1998 or early 1999 if enough agreements are

Indonesia's budget praised amid fears of inflation

JAKARTA (R) — Economists have praised Indonesia's budget, handed down Thursday, for its caution but warned of higher inflation following wage increases for

civil servants and workers. They said the government was right to shift the burden of development to the private sector while trying to spread expenditures more evenly across infrastructure projects, education and irriga-

tion. The budget is for the finan cial year from this April 1 to

March 31, 1996. "It is a very tight budget. There is no change in real terms." Anwar Nasution, an economics lecturer at the University of Indonesia told

announced a 10 per cent rise in civil servants' salaries after an earlier announcement to raise minimum wages for

workers by up to 35 per cent. They also queried a statement by coordinating minister for the economy Saleh Afiff that the government was aiming for six per cent inflation in 1995.

state-run media bave

mounted a broad publicity

This is wishful thinking. Already there are inflationary pressures in the private sector with new minimum wage rises. (The figure) could pass double digits," said Christianto Wibisono, director of the Indonesia Rusiness

Data Centre. President Suharto delivered the 1995-96 budget Thursday against a backdrop of foreign debt that could reach \$100 billion by March, 1996, a projected wider current-account deficit and

budget, balanced by law, totalled 78 trillion rupiah (\$35.62 billion), a projected 11.9 per cent rise from 1994/ 95 when the increase was the

Mr. Nasution said inflation, which has been hovering around 10 per cent during the past two calendar years. could hurt Indonesia's international competitiveness at atime when the country needed solid export growth to help service its huge fore-

"The danger here is that because our neighbours have lower inflation it therefore hurts our competitiv said.

President Suharto said 1994 inflation was 9.24 per cent, down from 9.77 per cent in 1993 but above an average five per cent for a five-year plan that started last

strong domestic consumption this year, is a sensitive issue in Indonesia, where 27 million out of 188 million people

live in poverty.

Economists also said the government, which has acknowledged the economy is overheating slightly, needed to address the fundamental question of why inflation nudged double digits whenever economic growth neared seven per cent.

"This is a problem because when we get near seven per cent growth the economy overheats, which is rather strange because other countries can reach nine or ever double-digit growth without double-digit inflation," Mr. Wibisono said.

Digby Falkiner, a senior analyst at brokers Morgan

Grenfell Asia Securities, said a widening in the current-account deficit would be no summise or couse for concern because of the big investment approvals Indonesia recorded last year.

The government approved foreign-investment projects worth \$23.7 billion for the year to Dec. 15, triple the figure of \$8 billion in 1993, which is expected to cause a surge in the import of capital

The current-account deficit was likely to widen by March, 1996, to \$4.09 billion from \$3.59 billion in 1994-95, the finance ministry said.

gineered by the Federal Re-serve (Fed) last year take threats of overheating in an economy burdened with red-Renters. But economists voiced fear Inflation, which is also expected to be influenced by distribution bottlenecks and inflation pressure would in-Save water... Every drop counts! crease after the government He said the 1995/96 draft

- eanuts

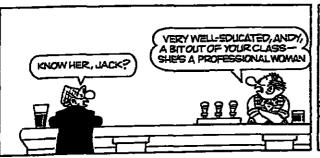






Andy Capp





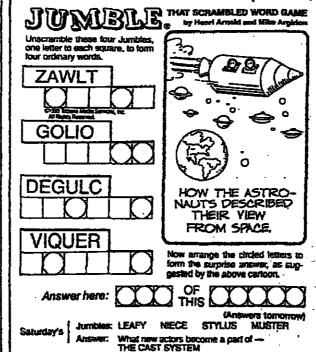


Must'n'Jeff





"I got my nose pierced so I can hang a hankle from it during flu season!"



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation GENERAL TENDENCIES: All day and the evening as well requires caution and care in all that you do. It isn't a day to seek or expect the cooperation of others and you would be wise to go along with the plans of your mate even though it isn't what you want to do.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Home is fine in the morning, but after lunch, be careful of disagreements or other tensions. Weed out your wardrobe for some new styles.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get into philosophical studies in the morning. This is not a good day for travels. But get your car in better order, clean it completely. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Some financial problem may arise after breakfast, so plan how to handle it wisely. Be economical in your purchasing and have some extra funds.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make plans for the future since the afternoon can bring tensions and delays. This is a very good day to be social with friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can handle any quick decisions which have to be made, but take under advisement any important issues which may arise in your life.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A good friend could be helpful in the morning, but later do not seek favours from anyone. Avoid disagreements with close friends and loved ones. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Handle an outside affair early, but later stay at home and avoid any outside altercations. Rely pretty much on yourself for answers.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have a clever idea in the morning which can be put to great use, so carry through with it.

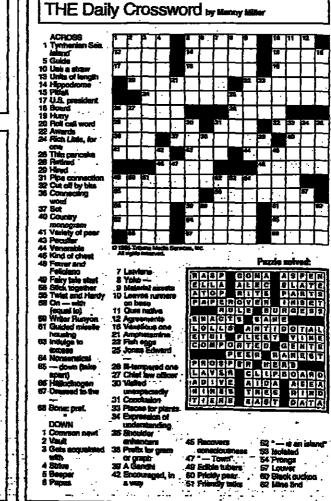
Avoid the social scene tonight. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can be very happy with your mate in the morning, but later you have duties so perform and get at them without baste.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Concentrate on

agreements made early in the morning, then you will avoid criticism later. A pleasurable situation will arise. AQUARTUS: (January 21 to February 19) Some service you render

or is completed for you can begin the day pleasantly. The evening can be charming spent with your loved ones. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Early be sure to accept some invitation which comes your way. Improve your appearance by changes in your wardrobe. Be charming in the evening.

Birthstone of January: Garnet - Rose Quartz





Business & Finance

usiness aily eat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Super bank reportedly in the offing

* Big strides have been made towards establishing a huge Jordanian bank with an authorised JD 100 million capital. According to a known economic expert who prepared the feasibility study, there is enough need and justification to set up the bank in light of local, regional and international developments. The head of the founding committee, who requested anonymity, said the paid-up capital is expected to reach JD 50 million during the first five years with the founders covering 75 per cent of the capital and the remaining 25 per cent to the floated for public subscription. Pointing out that more than 4,000 new companies were set up in 1994 and that the volume of investments at the primary market of the Amman Financial Market hit a record JD 430 million last year, he said Jordanian banks, except for the Arab Bank, had relatively limited capital and their services were below the level provided by many Arab and other banks in the region. The head of the founding committee said the bank would have more products and services to contribute to the banking industry and that would be the key to obtain a licence from the central bank which recently made it clear that no new banks will be licenced unless they can provide new banking services that would constitute a tangible, accretion of the Kingdom's banking industry. The committee reportedly has many offers from expatriates and Gulf Arabs, as well as Japanese, South Korea, European and American investors to hold qualities in the proposed bank (Al Ra'i).

☆☆ The Ministry of Post and Communications reminds all subscribers to a post office box to renew their subscriptions before the end of January. Delays beyond the end of this month will carry a 50 per cent fine of the subscription fee for three months after which subscriptions will be severed (Al Dustour).

* Complaints have reportedly, increased from hotels in Amman, Aqaba and Petra that Israeli tourists have stolen many properties and ornaments (Al Dustour).

★★ During a meeting between representatives of the commercial sector and the mayor of the Greater Amman Municipality, nearly a dozen issues were brought up for discussions. The topics were: (1) removing garages from the Mahatta street; (2) having merchants whose business has nothing to do with health pay health fees;
(3) issuing violation tickets for minor offences and not allowing enough time for redressing other violations; (4) metal barriers downtown; (5) reducing charges for road signs; (6) street vendors; (7) double inspections from various government authorities; (8) parking of "service" taxis; (9) exhibition; (10) building a tunnel at Al Sharq Al Awsat intersection; (11) licensing restaurants and (12) store awnings (Al Aswaq).

★★ Economist and columnist Fahed Fanek said in a speech at Al Watan Party headquarters that Israeli imports are sixfold Jordan's imports while their exports are 10 times high than ours. But, he added, because of high inflation, the per capita income in Israel does not really exceed five times the per capita income in Jordan. He dismissed fears of Israelis rushing to invest in Jordan because any investor would expect at least a 20 per cent return on his investment. However, Dr. Fanek expected the Israelis to be interested in hotel investments in Jordan as this sector is expected to boom in the future (Al Aswag).

Japanese banks dispose of \$207b in bad debts

from other institutions such

as regional banks, amounted

to 3,161 billion yen, indicat-

account for two thirds of the

COMPANY'S NAME

THE HOUSING HANK

BANKS

Dordae Hatiogal Bank Jordae Hatiogal Bank / Hen Middle Bast Investment Bank.

AMEGN RANK BOR THRESTWENT

ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE JONDAN FRENCE INSURANCE ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE

JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER /NEW

ARAB DETERMATIONAL HOTELS JOHDAN HATIONAL SHIPPING LINES HATIONAL PORTPOLIO SECURITIES JOHDAN GULF EKAL ESTATE INVESTI

JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CHATER

SERVICES SECTOR

MACHINARY BOULD, RENTING & MAINTENANCE

ATTARCESP CORST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING THE JOSDAN CEMENT FACTORIES

JUNIAR PETRALEUK REFIRARY THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL

ARAS PHARMACBUTICAL MANUFACTURING

THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES THE PUBLIC HUNING SPINNING & WEAVING

DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT

LIVESTOCK & FOULTRY
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING

JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO

JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.

MATICHAL CARLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

ARAB CENTER FOR PEARM, & CHEMICALS

MATICIAL STREE INDUSTRY INTERNEDIATE PETRO-CHRNICAL INDUSTRIES JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES

JOHDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I UNITED HIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE BOTELS

JONDAN HINCH MINERAL

JORDAN PROSPEATE MINES

THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS

ARAB INVESTMENT & INCREA ARAB ALIMINIUM INDUSTRY

THE ARAB POTASE/NEW

RAPIA INDUSTRIES

JORDAN ROCKWOOL INI ALADDIN INDUSTRIES

GRAND TOTAL

FOR RENT

vlany apartments and villa lumished and untumished.

We also have many listings of

villas, flats, and building lots

FOR SALE

Commercial and

residential.

For more details call:

Abdoun Real Estate

Tel. 818685/810609

For Your Stay in Amma

Quality Furnished Flats

One and Two Bedroom

Reasonable Rates For

Short or Long Stay

5th Circle

674563 - 674551

INSURANCE SECTOR 🦟

JOERAH GULP BARK JOERAH ISLANIC BARK URION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT SEIT KLEAL SAVINGEINVESTMENT FOR BOUSING

ARAB BANK

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese city banks have spent 2,072 billion yen (\$207 billion) in removing bad loans from their books since March 1993 with Mitsubishi Bank Ltd. leading the pack, a news agency has reported.

Jiji Press said Mitsubishi spent 323 billion ven in transferring bad debts to the bankowned Cooperative Credit Purchasing Co., followed by Sakura Bank Ltd, with 287 billion yen and Dai-Ichi Kanyo Bank Ltd. with 253 billion yen.

The report by Jiji also said that if recent trends con-tinued, all of Japan's 11 city banks, except Bank of Tokyo Ltd., would soon approach limits in disposing of bad loans, requiring the finance ministry to relax lending guidelines

Japanese banks currently lend funds to the cooperative credit company to acquire their non-performing loans and the exposures of 10 banks to the agency currently range from between seven per cent and 15 per cent of their capital.

But the banks are not

allowed to lend any more than 20 per cent of their capital to a single borrower and many want the limit to be raised to 30 per cent to enable bad loan disposals to be accelerated, the news agency

Sanwa Bank Ltd. ranked fourth among the city banks with its disposals of bad loans totalling 247 billion yen followed by Sumitomo Bank Ltd. with 246 billion yen, Fuji Bank Ltd. with 208 billion yen, Tokai Bank Ltd. with 182 billion yen and Asabi Bank Ltd. with 177 billion

Among smaller amounts were 89 million yen by Daiwa Bank Ltd., 37 billion yen by Hokkaido Takushoku Bank Ltd. and 22 billion by Bank of Tokyo Ltd.

The report, which quoted unidentified financial sources, said the country's three long-term credit banks accounted for a further 335 billion yen while its seven trust banks accounted for 315 billion yen.

The agency said in November that its total acquisitisons, including bad loans

Algeria forecasts oil exports to earn \$9.2b

TUNIS (R) - Algeria expects its earnings from oil and gas exports to rise to \$9.2 billion this year from \$8.7 billion in 1994, according to finance minsitry figures re-ported by the official Algerian news agency.

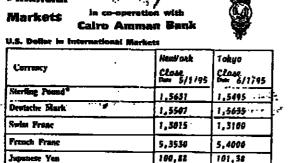
The North African country's oil and gas exports account for more than 90 per cent of its foreign currency earnings and brought in \$9.8 billion in 1993.

The government, in a \$3.6 billion deficit budget for price for Algerian oil of \$16 a barrel against \$16.1 in 1994. The figures showed that the deficit will represent 8.3 per cent of gross domestic product, estimated at 1,780.4 billion dinars (\$43.4 billion,

Oil and gas taxes represent 51.3 per cent of the 586.5 billion dinars (\$14.3 billion) expected budget revenues, against 734.9 billion dinars (\$17.9 billion) expenses.

at the government budget ex-change rate of 41 dinars per

Financial Markets Cairo Ammag Bank



European Curreny Unit

* USD For STG ** Karapean Opening & 1:56 a.m. UMT					
Barocurrency Interest R	ntes		Dute: 6/1	/95	
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTIES	
U.S. Dollar	5,68	6,12	6.62	7,18	
Sterling Pound	5,87	6.31	6,75	7,75	
Deutsche Mark	4,25	5,00	5,25	5,68	
Swiss Franc	3,75	4.06	4,25	4,56	
French Franc	5,50	5,98	6,37	6,87	
Јаралене Усп .	2,12	2,12	2,31	2,50	
European Currency Unit	5,84	6,25	6,63	7,15	

Detai 6/1/95... URLHO2 JUNGS Metal USDAO2 JDAGS 372,10 7,60 Silver 4,64 0,110

	Manu 1/1/42				
Ситевсу	254	Office			
U.S. Dollar	0,763	0,705			
Sterling Pound	1,0110	1,0934			
Deztsche Mark	0,4492	0,4514			
Swiss Franc	0,5348	0,5375			
French Franc	0,1301	0,1308			
Japanese Yen*	0,6925	0.8960			
Duich Gulider	0,4003	0,4023			
Swedish Krona					
italian Lira*	0,0430	0,0432			
Belgian Franc					

other Carrencies	Dates 7/1/95				
Carrency	Blé	Offe			
Sahretol Diner	1.5410	1.1610			
Labonese Liru*	0.041725	0,042985			
Sandi Riyal	0,18668	0,18210			
Kuwalti Diner	1,3006	2,3600			
Quant Riyal	g. 19180	0.19320			
Fgyptian Pound	0,2000	0,2150			
Omani Aliyai	1,8130	1,8310			
UAE Dirisme	0,19010	0.19210			
Greek Proclame®	0.27550	0.31659			
Cyprist Pound	1.40600	1,5145			





667171 ext. 223

Cali tei:

STUDIO HAIG Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service Develop your colour film at oan spob suq Set:-· JUMBO photo size 30% larger · Free enlarge

ment 20 x 30 cm Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlay: Bank. Phone: 604042

ing that the city banks

The face value of the 3,849 bad loans was 6,748 billion yen, the agency said, indicating a discount of more than Meanwhile, Japanese

bank profits for the six months to September dropped 16.9 per cent from a year earlier to a combined 789.5 billion yen (\$7.9 billion) as bad loan write-offs accelerated, an industry group has

The Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan said the decline in pre-tax earnings among the 150 banks reflected aggressive moves to get non-performing loans off their balance sheets.

A spokesman for the federation said the combined write ous came to 2,033 billion yen during the first half, up 69.5 per cent from a year earlier.

Japan's 11 city banks suffered the sharpest declines in earnings. As a group, their profits before tax plunged 40.7 per cent from a year earlier to a combined 233 billion yen, the federation

2000

pre-tax earnings of first-tier regional banks climbing eight per cent to a combined 354 billion yea. The profits of second tier regional banks grew three per cent during the same period to a com-bined 95.6 billion yen, the

The profits of the country's seven trust banks dropped 22.9 per cent to a combined 48.7 billion yen while the earnings of three long-term credit banks were down 20.1

Regional banks posted a

per cent to a combined 58.1 billion yen. better performance with the

Andiah Financii Bousing Rabi Cepter am Teliphone: 660170 / ED Mariet Svare Price List	MAX - SING 663170	ISMI	1995		
,	RO. CF	AFTER		CLOSING	
	SELECT	TRADED	CLOSING	PRICE	
	TRADED	ச	PRICE		
		430547	100.00		
	1240	228615		183.750	
L BANK	18873	83249	4.240		
LEAME / NEW	19434	81842	4-040		
VESTMENT HANK.	5150	8549	1.660		
RK.	72000	413302	5.690		
RANK	1538	4615	2.990	3.000	
HK,	16200	27281	1-620	7.680	
BANK	31669	120004	3.750	3.750	
SAVING & INVESTMENT	26700	136170	5.000	5.100	
INCLINVESTMENT FOR BOUSING	1050	3419	3.210	3.270	
DIVESTMENT	128500	199606	1.530	1.540	
ORPORATION/JORDAN	300	1197	3.800	3.990	
HVESTMENT BANK.	8535	15037	1.720	1.730	
SECTOR	331189	1322885	INDEX NU	MBER: 159.38 : +0.431	
NSURANCE	1500	3000	2.000	2.000	
INSURANCE .	250	619	2.470		
ERMATICHAL INSURANCE	250 250	· 718	3.020		
SUMME TANKE TWO REALES	250	/10	3.020	2.0/0	

4337 1.570 1.520 2.920 5.080 3.300 2.500 1.320 1.050 1.570 1.520 2.780 4.950 3.200 2.420 1.290

.770 12.800 2.500 140915 322684 INDEX NUMBER: 136.13 1.370 2.910 2.960 5.450 9.840 4.300 7.800 5.530 1.370 2.950 3.000 5.500 9.800 4.350 650 79917 899 235847 1347 2475 37934 38259 16035 1801 710 309 1345 7326 63435 8580 17235 97292 34477 12303 8.050 5.760 2.770 4.300 3.000 2.690 2.860 16.800 2.740 1.050 7.150 979 1.070 7.500 m... 980 ... 1.470 4.150 2.800 1.550 4.340

1.479 2.820 1.560 4.560 .860 5.380 2.030 2.800 1.820 4.260 2.430 972834 THDEY HUMBER: 131.66

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IS PARALLEL MARKET VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET

Iraqis urged not to hoard food

BAGHDAD (R) — A rush on staple foods has sent price soaring in Iraq and a cabinet minsiter advised Iraqis Friday against hoarding and urged traders not to exploit the high demand for yet another hike. Baghdad traders said sugar was in great demand follow-

ing a government decision this week to slash sugar ration by one third, the second reduction in rations in less than six months. Iraqis will now receive 500 grammes a month of sugar

each instead of 750. Last ye the government reduced food rations, distributed at giveaway prices, by as much as half.

"There is nothing to worry and push the citizen to buy and hoard any of the food items on the rationing card," Hussein Kamel Hassan, minister of industry and minerals, was quoted in Baghdad newspapers as

saying.

He said the government had no plans for further cuts in rations which provide less than haif of each person's

needs for sugar, tea, rice, flour and cooking oil. Traders said the rush on food was spurred by rumours that the government, short of foreign cash to buy food,

might announce big slashes in food rations. Food prices on the market rose sharply as the Iraqi dinar tumbled against the U.S. dol-

tial foods soared. A box of 30 eggs jumped from 1350 di-nars to 1650, about the average monthly salary of a junior government clerk in Iraq. Following Mr. Hassan's remarks, sugar slumped to 450 dinars from 525.

Traders said a visit by Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz to Paris, which was seen . as a clear sign of warming relations between the two countries, halted the hikes, albeit temporarily.

Mr. Hassan said huge quantities of sugar were on the way to Iraq this month and that the slash in food rations was only a temporary sure. He did not elabo-

"Any positive or negative statement affects our volatile market. We are in an awkward situation," a trader said. Mr. Hassan warned that the state will not remain idle in the face of illegal hoarding and profiteering by traders, who if convicted may face the

dinar had stabilised following a sharp slump this week. The dollar was hovering at 665 dinars to the U.S. dollar. It fetched 540 two weeks ago. Iraq is under U.N. trade sanctions imposed because of its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The council is scheduled to review the embargo by mid-January and traders said they ar. were now taking a "a wait-This week prices of essen- and-see" attitude.

Japanese firms reduce unaccounted-for spending

TOKYO (R) — Japanese firms used less cash for "unaccounted-for spending" - a bookkeeping category that includes bribes to politicians or payoffs to gangsters - in the year to June, Tokyo tax authorities have said. Undocumented outlays by

companies shrank by 10.9 per cent to 53 billion yen (\$530 million) after a record year in 1992-93, the National Tax Administration Agency said.

The construction industry, notorious for bribing politicians in exchange for lucra-tive public works contracts, was again the leading spender. It accounted for almost three quarters of the shadowy outlays by the firms audited,

Contractors awere followed by manufacturers of has plagued Japan.

medical products, wholesalers and retailers - according to results from a tax agency inquiry into 4,746 companies, each capitalised at 100 million yen (\$1 million) or more.

Of the 53 billion yen, tax authorities were able to identify the spending purpose of only 13.7 billion yen (\$137 million). This included 2.6 billion yen (\$26 million) donated to politicians and 7.4 billion yen (\$74 million) to cover entertainment and other social expenses.

It was not clear whether the decline in unaccountedfor spending was because firms were chastened by the series of recent bribery scandals or merely squeezed by the prolonged recession that

Save water... Every drop counts!

JORDAN

A SECURE

FLAT.O.TEI

Sweifiyeh

wrino

Flat.OTEL

SECURITY

HOSPITALITY

All Suites Flat. O .Tel

خدمات ملوكيه ٢٤ ساعة

<u>863944 - 816690</u>

Tel. 864230

Fax. 864231

SELECT HOTEL

Superior Hotel Services for

Businessmen & Families & its

NeGrEsCo BaR

Good Drinks &

Open Noons

& Evenings

Excellent Spacks

أجتمه فاخره م



Cafe'

Hamburgers + Pizzas

ELITE CAFE'

Sweifiyeh

816690

Turino

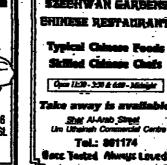










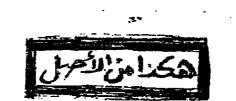












10:Sports



Graf to miss Australian Open Sanchez-Vicario could take top spot

BOCA RATON, Florida (AFP) - Steffi Graf dropped out of the Australian Open Thursday, opening the door for Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario to take the WTA world number one ranking with a title at the Grand Slam event.

Graf, the reigning number one from Germany, said Thursday she would not complete in this month's Grand Slam event because of a strained calf muscle in her right leg.

"It's very frustrating," Graf said. "It's not the way I wanted to start 1995." The Australian Open be-

gins January 16. Graf, who won her fourth Australian crown last year, plans to begin her 1995 WTA schedule at Tokyo in an event that starts the day after the

On that day, Graf will

not own a Slam title for the first time since 1987, when she won her first major by capturing the French Open

Sanchez-Vicario, now ranked second, could take the world top spot by winning in Australia. Combined with the points Graf will lose, the U.S. Open champion will need to earn 665 points to take the top

ranking.
Sanchez-Vicario would receive 520 points for winning in Australia plus 'quality points" for beating ranked players in the tournament. She would need to face and vanquish three or four ranked foes to compile enough quality points to overtake Graf, so early upsets would work against her quest.

A back injury bothered Graf most of last year, but the Germany ace had solved that problem with

"My back has been going very well. I got rid of my back pain," Graf said.

"(The leg injury) happened during practice while I was running for a shot. I had to take off for nine days until it went away totally." "Maybe I tried to do a little too much."

Graf, who lost the U.S. Open final to Sanchez-Vicario, has played only at the season-ending WTA championships last November since the Open. She remained in Florida to work out rather than return home to Germany.

"I'm very eager (to return). That's why I stayed here," Graf said.

: nize

Teres FOR SALE

people exempted from customs.

1992 Chevrolet Caprice, 3000 CC, automatic with

A/C burgundy, velour interior. Like new. Suitable for

Please call: 02-271100 (Ext. 3166)

FOR RENT

3 BEDROOM APARTMENT

A modern apartment, fully furnished, consisting of

master bedroom with bath, two other bedrooms with

second bath, family sitting room, reception and

The apartment has its telephone, separate heating

Location in Tla'a Al Ali adjacent to Gardens Road.

Please call Tel: 640141/2 Mr. Zakaria to

GOREN BRIDGE

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

WITH CHAR SHARIF & TANNAH HERSCH . 1894 Troore Moos Servois .

five clubs as a lead director. Sell out if the opponents compete with five

spacies.
Q.4—l'Jeither vulnerable, as South

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

48 7Q964 'Q964 eQ1096
Patter opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

A.—Normally, we espouse bidding your four-card suits up the lina. Here, however, your holding and suits are weak and your hand is worth just one forward-going bid. We would opt for one heart, intending to correct one spade or one as

ing to correct one spade or one no trump to two clubs.

Q.5---As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Page 2 7 Page 1 7 Page 1 7 Page 2 7 Page 1 7 Page 2 7 Pag

What action do you take?

A.—Even with a minimum response you could have game if partner's values are in the right place.

Make a help-suit game try in the longer of the suits where a key holding is needed. Bid three clubs.

Q.6.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

\$4A072 CJ3 CKQ5 \$4AJ32\$
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Page 3 \$ Page

What do you bid now?

dining, guest bath, kitchen and maid's room.

system and building equipped with elevator.

arrange for information and visit.

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South

you hold: ♦K642 AQ62 KQ3 ◆A8

AGE 42 AGE KQ3 AS
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 2 Pass
2 Pass
2 Pass
2 Pass
3 What do you bid now?
A.—With 16 points in high cards it makes no difference whether your range is 15-17 or 16-18, or that you were unable to find a major-suit fit.
You have at least 33 and no more than 36 points in the combined holding. That's enough for a small slam and no more. Bid six no trump.

Graf was upset in the first round at Wimbledon by Lori McNeil last year and fell to Mary Pierce in the French Open semi-

Argentina play Japan today

RIYADH (R) — Argentina's coach Daniel Pasarella is likely to field a second-string team for his side's opening Inter.Continental Cup match

against Japan Sunday.
"We have to play two
matches within 48 hours and after sizing up our opponents I'll make a decision on what team to field," he told repor-

After watching Nigeria beat Japan 3-0 in the opening Group B match in Riyadh Friday, Pasarella is more likely to use his top players against the Nigerians Tues-

Argentina are defending champions in the competition, which features the five champions of FIFA's continental federations plus the Saudi Arabian hosts.

European representatives Denmark play their first game in Group A against Saudi Arabia Sunday, reinforced by the late arrival of both Brian Laudrup, the Glasgow Rangers winger and Johanny Hansen of Odense.

Mexico beat Saudi Arabia 2-0 in the first Group A

match Friday. Nigeria, the poorest of the six nations, defeated Japan 3-0 in the five-million dollar competition as Japan played some quality football, but Nigeria's World Cup experience proved decisive in this event.

Samson Siasia, Mutiu Ade-poju and Daniel Amokachi scored the goals for a country which perhaps most badly needs the 1.5 million-dollar winners's check.

Earlier in Group A, Mexico won 2-0 against hosts Sandi Arabia.

Two goals from secondhalf substitute Luis Garcia gave Mexico the win over hosts Saudi Arabia in the opening match of the event

The result put the Concacaf champions in top place in Group A in the six-nation

SPORTS IN BRIEF

United bid to keep Cantona till 2000

MANCHESTER (AFP) - Frenchman Eric Cantons will shortly be offered a contract worth 2.5 million pounds to keep him at Manchester United until the year 2000, according to a newspaper report. Cantona, whose present contract expires next year, is set for an improved four-year deal that will ensure the 28-year-old French captain finishes his playing days in England, according to the Daily Mirror. United chairman Martin Edwards is quoted as saying: "Put it this way, you won't need to worry about his situation for another three or four more years. We will sit down with him soon and discuss the new arrangement." Cantona, who has announced his wish to stay with the English champions, would join Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton as the highest paid footballers in Britain if he accepts the offer.

Stoltenberg back in Davis Cup team

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Australia's top ranked player, Jason Stoltenberg, was recalled Friday to his country's Davis Cup squad for next month's first round World Group tie against South Africa in Durban. A shoulder injury forced Stoltenberg to miss the relegation play-off victory over New Zealand in Christchurch last September. Stoltenberg, at 20 Australia's highest ranked player, joins Pat Rafter (No. 21), Mark Woodforde (No. 43), Richard Fromberg (No. 59) and Todd Woodbridge (No. 91) in the squad for the tie on February 3-5.

NHL faces 'apuckalypse'

NEW YORK (AFP) - Little hope of a settlement is seen as National Hockey League (NHL) owners prepare to meet to decide the fate of a season shutdown for more than three months in a labour dispute. The NHL could become the first U.S. league ever to lose an entire season over a labour dispute. Baseball was halted by a strike that allowed no 1994 champion to be declared. Players gave what they termed a "final proposal" to owners this week, with a vote on the plan. "I have talked to 10 teams today and they all said it was not acceptable," Anaheim Mighty Ducks general manager Jack Ferreira said. "It definitely will be rejected." Should the plan fail, owners could end the season or make a final bid for a deal in the last hours before the entire campaign would have to be scrapped.

Ivanisevic gets a clearance

PERTH (AFP) — Croatian tennis star Goran Ivanisevic, who had been under the cloud of injury, has been cleared to take part in the Australian Open starting in Melbourne January 16. There were fears he could be forced to miss the event after complaining of right knee soreness during an exhibition match here Sunday as part of the Hopman Cup mixed teams' event. But Hopman Cup director Paul McNamee said that Ivanisevic had been cleared by a Perthspecialist to resume practice. "He had a MRI (magnetic processes in precinc) exercises which precinced as a superior of the part of the p resonance imaging) examination which revealed a small tear," McNamee said. "He has responded well to treatment, has full movement and no inflammation or swelling," he added. Ivanisevic travels to Melbourne to continue preparations for the Open.

Paris St. Germain into last 16

PARIS (R) — A 73rd minute goal by midfielder Vincent Guerin put French champions Paris St. Germain into the last 16 of the League Cup as they beat Auxerre 1-0. The Parisian side, missing the steel regular first hearing. Rai of Brazil and Liberian-George Weah, created few chances against last season's French Cup winners. But Guerin provided the winner with a left-foot shot from the edge of the box after a Patrick Colleter cross was only partially cleared by Daniel Guerreiro.

Pierce's father has new pupil

MIAMI (AFP) - Mary Pierce's father, banned from WTA matches for his past disruptive acts, is training a new German tennis prodigy whose father hopes to end Jim. Pierce's blacklist status on the women's circuit. Pierce has been hired to coach 14-year-old Marlene Weingartner, who plans to play in development events and as a qualifier at WTA events. This is Pierce's first pupil other than his daughter Mary, who split from her father two years ago and climbed into the sport's elite afterwards. "He's a very experienced coach. He made Mary," said Joseph Weing-artner, who plans to speak with the WTA about rescinding. the ban on Pierce.

Holyfield fulfils dying child's dream

HOUSTON (AFP) - Former world heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield fulfilled the dying wish of a 12-year-old boy with a visit here just hours before the child died of an incurable blood ailment. "I'm so thankful he got a chance to see me because that's what he said his wish was," Holyfield said. "All this little boy wanted was to see. me." Tabarric Gentry died Monday, just hours after a hospital visit from his sports idol. "People had been telling me this for a long time," Holyfield said. "Because of my busy schedule, I hadn't gotten to come to Houston before."
Holyfield lost his world titles last year and was later found to have a heart ailment. After surgery to correct the defect, Holyfield has been pronounced fit to fight, even though he faces a crowded path of heavyweight title contenders in his quest to regain the crown

Million-dollar setback hits PACT 95

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — America's Cup defender hopeful PACT 95 expects "Young America" will start the yachting competition in one week as scheduled despite tornado damage that could cost one million dollars to fix. "Things weren't broken. They were disintegrated," skipper Kevin Mahaney said after a storm ripped through the PACT 95 compound and damaged their week-old boat. The twister lasted only 30 seconds, but demolished a sail loft and blew sails into the water, sending one 1.6 km away. Hull shell damage came when the ship was knocked sideways in its cradle preparing for launch.

Yeboah has final say on transfer

BONN (R) — English Premier League club Leeds United agreed terms with Germany's Eintracht Frankfurt Friday for the transfer of star striker Anthony Yeboah, but the Ghanaian was given until Monday to consider Leeds's pay offer, the German sports agency SID said. SID said Eintracht business manager Bernd Hoelzenbein had agreed with Leeds that the final shape of the deal would depend on the personal terms agreed with Yeboah. The 28-year-old Ghanaian, joint top scorer in the Bundesliga for the last two seasons, could either be sold for around \$5.8 million or loaned to Leeds until the end of 1995 for \$1.6 million,

Tel.: 618274 - 618275

Maradona jailed for an hour

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Diego Maradona was jailed for an hour after judge Julio Campora rejected Maradona's explanation for violating a court order. The court order stated Maradona most not leave the country without permission as required by his sentence for shooting an air rifle at journalists outside his house last summer. But Maradona, who travelled to Paris after receiving a medal from Fidel Castro in Cuba, was not granted such permission. Campora ruled Maradona had broken his bail conditions and sent him to jail. But an hour later, Maradona was freed after securing another bail agreement.

Villa complete record double deal

LONDON (R) — Aston Villa completed their biggest ever transfer deal when they signed two players from first division Derby County, Tommy Johnson and Gary Charles, for a combined fee of 2.9 million pounds (\$4.54 million). Both players have signed 31/2-year contracts with the Premier League side with an option of a further 12 months. Johnson is a 23-year-old striker while Charles has been, described by Little as the best young full-back in the country. Villa are fourth from bottom of the Premier League, a position which would bring relegation at the end

BAF rejects Modahl call for public appeal

LONDON (R) - The British Athletic Federation (BAF) rejected a call by middle distance runner Diane Modall for her appeal against a four-year ban for a doping offence to be held in public. "Our hearings — and those of other sports — are always held in private," BAF spokesman Tony Ward said. "They will continue to be so. It would set iecessary precedent if we did otherwise." Modahl's solicitor, Tony Morton-Hooper, had insisted the case was of great public interest and of importance to the sporting world. "The BAF rule book does not require meetings to be in private," he said.

Deportivo Ioan Kostadinov to Bayern Munich

LA CORUNA, Spain (R) — Leading Spanish chib Deportivo Coruna have loaned Bulgarian striker Emil Kostadinov to Bayern Munich of Germany, with an option to buy at the end of the season. A Deportivo statement said agreement for the move was reached Friday night between Coruna Chairman Augusto Cesar Lendoiro and Bayern deputy chairman Karl Heinz Rumennigge. Kostadinov, who helped Bulgaria's to the semifinals of the 1994 World Cup, came to Deportivo in the first weeks of this season on loan from Pertuguese club Porto. But he has not commanded a regular spot in Deportivo's starting line up.

9 police injured at Marseille match

MARSEILLE (R) - Nine policemen were injured in clashes with Marseille supporters during a soccer match in the French Mediterranean port Friday, police said. Former European champions Marseille were trailing 2-0 towards the end of the match against Nancy when angry supporters threw missiles onto the pitch and attacked police. Referee Georges Ramos stopped the match but fights resumed outside the stadium, where fans destroyed a bus stop and several police vehicles. The soldies said 10 people were arrested. Marseille were relegated to the second divisions to throw a key league match in May 1993.

Champion jockey Dunwoody faces ban

LONDON (R) - British champion jump jockey Richard Dunwoody has been ordered to appear before the Jockey Club after he was found guilty of improper riding during a race at Uttoxeter Friday. Dunwoody could now face a severe riding ban after he appeared to deliberately steer his mount Gime A Buzz in to the path of Wadswick Lad, ridden by Luke Harvey, in the Heechst Panacur Mares Novices' hurdle. The stewards found Dunwoody guilty of intentional interference and referred the incident to the Exhibition-based Jockey Club as it was his second technical riding offence of the season.

Obree sacked by French team

PARIS (AFP) — French cycling team Le Groupement have sacked Scottish former world champion Graemer have sacked Scottsh former world champion Graemer. Obree for failing to turn up to a pre-season training camp. Obree, signed last September, was expected at Carroz d'Arrache in the French Alps Sunday. "Obree didn't even call us to explain why," said team manager Guy Mollet. "His attitude is all wrong and this is unforgivable." Obree, 28, the world parsuit champion in 1993, was to make his debut in the professional ranks with the French team later this year.

Sauzee suspended by trainer

PARIS (R) - Franck Sauzee became the second French international to be suspended by his own club from this weekend's league matches when Strasbourg trainer Daniel Jeandupeux handed him a one-match ban. Jeandupeux accused Sauzee of throwing the ball at him during Tuesday's shock 2-0 League Cup defeat to second division side Perpignan and said he had a disruptive effect on the whole team. Sauzee, who has won 39 caps for France in defence and midfield, will sit out the match with St. Etienne. Earlier in the week, Paris St. German trainer Luis Fernandez suspended France goalkeeper Bernard Lama for one match because he reported back for training a day late after the Christmas and New Year break.

Two titles at stake in Texas

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) — Unbeaten U.S. fighter Kevin Kelley and veteran Wilfredo Vazquez of Pnerto Rico defend world boxing in a championship doubleheader. Kelley, a Brooklyn southpaw, takes a 41-0 record with 29 knockouts into his third World Boxing Council featherweight title defense, this one against Mexico's Alejandro Gonzalez. Gonzalez has won 22 straight fights and has a 34-2 mark with 24 knockouts. Vazquez makes his ninth World Boxing Association junior featherweight title de-fense against Texan Orlando Canizales. Vazquez, who has held the crown for two years, has a 41-6 record that includes 32 knockouts. He has fought three draws. Canizales, who has won 28 straight fights, has a 38-1 record with one draw. He has recorded 29 knockouts. Canizales has made 16 straight title defenses of the International Boxing Federation bantamweight crown before moving up to a heavier class for this fight.

VILLA FOR RENT Furnished or Unfurnished 1. Consists of three bedrooms, lounges and dining,

with central heating, telephone, garden and garage (for a family or students). Furnished residence with all services and meals

with a family for female students only. Please call 841413

Under the Patronage of Her Majestry Queen Noor Al Hussein

THE HATTERAL MOORE COMMENTATIONY/ROOM &L. HOMBOUR FORMATION

🕏 COETHE INSTITUT AMMAN present in concert



Camerata Köln

Recorder, flute, aboe, violins, viola, cello, controbass and harpstchord

Tuesday, 10 January 1995 - 8:00 p.m. The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre Ticket price: JD 7

Tickets available from:

- Alahlia-Abela Superstore, tel. 688481
- Babiche, tel. 661322 • Freddy for Music, tel. 692696
- Music Box, tei. 815745 Romero, tel. 644227
- Royal Cultural Centre, tel. 661026
- Goethe Institut, tel. 641993 National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

PHILADELPHIA

Raghda & Farooq Al Fishawi

RAGHBAT

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30



0

D

T

Cinema

THE ARAB SUPPLIES &

Tel.: 634144 | Cinema

East South West N Pass Pass 1 9 2 4 9 ? What action do you take? GENERAL TRADE COMPANY

PLAZA

Julia Roberts/Nick Note

I Love Trouble

Shows 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

The Lion King

Shows: 10:30, 12:30, 3:30, 5:00 ·

Q.3-Both vulnerable, as South 71052 1109752 4AE4 dding has proceeded: South West North Pass 1 9 2 ...

Q.2—North-South vulnerable, as South you hold:

4AK10872 7A94 6852 4A

The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South 3.7 Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—While you have a good hand, it does contain six losers. Despite the fact you might balance with less, we think a bid of three spades does the hand justice. Unless partner can raise, we doubt that you can make game.

-North-South vulgerable, as

A.—A raise to four spaces does not do your hand justice. You have a maximum no trump and excellent support for partner's suit. To describe a band that now has slam ambitions, make an advance cuelled of four ships. bid of foor clubs. Tel.: 699238

A.—Although you have two defen-sive tricks, your diamond length makes it possible that four spaces will be unbeatable. However, a sac-rifice should not be costly. On the way to five diamonds, though, bid

CONCORD CONCORD 4'

Sylvester Stallone/Sharon Stone.. THE SPECIALIST Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD '2' SLEEP WALKER

Shows: 3:15, 5:15

AMMOUN THEATRE will soon present: Mousa Hijazin (SUM'AA)

comedy: Hi Citizen

in the satirical political

Tel. 675571 Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Abu Awwad in the social comedy Punctured Bag

The theatre is closed on day

Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155 AHLAN THEATRE Presents:

The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam

Daily at 8:30 Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday. in English Sunday January 15, 1995

Sports

r an hour

Diego Maradona was la ampora rejected Marada curt order. The country leave the country will sentence for shooting at its house last summer. I arts after receiving a last summer. is nouse the summer being a new constraint of the best constraint of and the proven of the party of

rd double deal

completed their bigger as 2.9 million pounds [8] ned 3 - year contracts Su obside of a fault id striker while Charles best young full-backing moontom of the Property of the Propert

il for public appea

Athletic Federation (BA) e ronner Diane Modalis an for a doping offener igs — and those of obname to be so. It would did otherwise Modeli ned insisted the cases. es not require meetings

v to Bayern Munich

Leading Spanish & d Bulgarian striker & Germany, with an opis à Deportavo statemente ched Friday night being san Lendorro and Base Rumennigge, Kostadina rumnas of the 1994 Wo no weeks of this seasone But he has not come wis starting line-up.

arseille match

iseemen were injured: during a sociaer maint index, police said. Fore ... were trailing 240 town anddns future usquares artacked police. Rrim ಜಾಯಿದ ರಲೀಗೆ ghಲು range ರ್ಷ-೧೯೦೪ ಕರೆ ಆ ೧೮೩ ನಡಚ fee said if peoples of the the second draws Topponents Valendes

₹oody faces ban

son jump jockey Ridat spinear perore the Jodg improper maing dungs peods about now face) of to deliberately steer & tath of Wadswick Lake Hoeenst Panacur Mas and Durwoody will d med the indident to the was his second technic

ch team

team Le Groupemen tid champion Graens te-season training camp स्टब्स कराज्यात्वयं वर **Cante** is a two-way street. If you want it you have to give it."

Auerbach was 938-479 in das Obree didniem n manager Guy Molle. s uniformiable." Obre. jours was to make be hithe French team late

traine?

are the second Freed he out cles from the responde trainer Danie Jeandupen S call at him during efect to second divisor issuance effect on the IS cars for France in is St. Germain trainer s cookeeper Benan ored pack for training d New Year break.

ien U.S. fignier Kenn

mento de presto de constituto sowing Council feath Mexico's Alejando arght fights and has quez makes his min Tarquez, who has s 2 41-2 record that to three draws. Call has a 3%-! record with

ckours. Carizales has International Boxing fore steving up to 8

at 8:30

5 holida)

Sunday is the

n Sunday

job of setting good picks and getting me the basketball," said Starks. Tel.: 02515 THEATRE Anthony Mason had 21 points and 10 rebounds and Patrick Ewing added 20 points and 11 rebounds for sents: ical satire: Ya Salam

the Knicks. John Williams had 15 points for the Cavaliers. In Boston, Clyde Drexler converted a three-point play

with six-tenths of a second

Becker, Huber secure **Hopman Cup for Germany**

PERTH_(R) — Germany won the Hopman Cup for the second time in three years Saturday as Boris Becker and Anke Huber proved too strong for Ukraine's family duo of Andrei Medvedev and Natalia Medvedeva.

The second seeded Germans took an unbeatable 2-0 lead after Becker and Huber each negotiated tense singles rubbers in a final that maintained the trend at the mixed team tournament.

Only once in seven years has the mixed doubles decided the outcome and Germany's success bore more than a few similarities to Steffi Graf and Michael Stich's victory over the Spanish brother-sister pairing of Emilio and Arantxa Sanchez in

Graf's withdrawal with a calf injury from this month's Australian Open in Melbourne was scarcely a great start to 1995 for German tennis, but Becker and Huber offered immediate consolation en route to the \$150,000 firts prize.

Huber came through some sticky moments in the second and third sets before shaking off the determined Medvedeva 6-4 3-6 6-4 in the opening singles, which

Ukraine badly needed to win. Medvedev also took Becker, in impressive form all week despite a slight cold, to a third set in a contest that gave both men encouragement for the forthcoming Melbourne formight.

The German world number three served five aces in succession during the second

ATLANTA (R) - With the

Hawks 112-90 victory over

the Washington Bullets Fri-

day, Lenny Wilkens won his

939th game, more than any other coach in the history of

the National Basketball

Wilkens tied legendary

Boston Celtics coach Red

Auerbach with his 938th

career victory last Thursday against San Antonio. He has

a career record of 939-793 in

22 seasons with Portland

Seattle, Cleveland and Atlan-

ta, guiding the 1978-79 Seat-

tle team to the NBA cham-

Ken Norman scored 23

points and Mookie Blaylock

added 20 for the Hawks, who

took the lead for good mid-

way through the first quarter

and snapped a three-game

losing streak in putting their

coach into the record books.

"I think the secret is a

number of things," Wilkens

said. "I've been able to make

teams into contenders, consistency and developing ta-

lent. The ability to communi-

cate with players no matter what era they're in. Respect

He guided the Celtics to

nine league titles, including eight in a row from 1959 to

In Chicago, Detlef Schrempf scored 19 of his 23

points in the second half as the Seattle Supersonics en-

ded a 12-year drought in Chi-

cago with a 108-101 victory

Schrempf was 4-of-4 from

three-point range, including

two that came 42 seconds

apart and foiled a comeback

by the Bulls, who had erased

ficit. The Supersonics won at

Chicago for the first time

Shawn Kemp scored 23 points and Kendali Gill

added 15 for the Supersonics,

who have won nine of their

Scottie Pippen scored 18 points and B.J. Armstrong

in Cleveland, John starks

scored all 23 of his points in

the second half to rally the

New York Knicks to a 103-93

victory over the cleveland

spark a 28-9 run which turned

a 72-64 third quarter deficit into a 92-81 lead for the

"My teammates did a great

Starks scored 10 points to

added 14 for the Bulls.

14-point third-quarter de-

Association.

pionship.

20 seasons.

over the Bulls.

since 1983.

last 11 games.

Cavaliers.

Knicks.

set, only for Medvedev to level the match by taking the subsequent tiebreak 7-3.

Becker, though, gradually reasserted himself over the world number 15 to wrap up. a 6-3 6-7 6-3 victory in two and a quarter hours.

Becker and Huber also received an additional bonus in the shape of diamond studded tennis balls worth \$22,500 apiece and were presented with a 3-0 winning margin when Medvedev was unable to take his place in the

He had been eagerly awaiting a contest with his close friend Huber, but a sore knee forced tournament organiser Paul McNamee to take his place in a lightherated exhibi-

Becker suggested he and Medvedev had "brought the best out of each other" in their singles in which the German produced 16 aces. Asked if Germany's suc-

cess would persuade him to represent his country in Davis Cup in 1995, he was less forthcoming.
"If it was with Anke, I

decision has not been made." Courier seeks first ATP

would play every week," he said evasively. "A definite

title since 1993 Former world number one Jim Courier, seeking his first ATP Tour title in over a year, beat off a determined Mark Woodforde Saturday to advance to the final of the Australian Men's Hardcourt Championship.

Courier, who has slipped to 13 in world rankings and is

Wilkens atop all-time victory

remaining to give Portland a

95-92 victory over the Boston Celtics after the Trail Blazers

squandered a 17-point third-

Drexler, who led all scorers with 35 points, took a pass

at midcourt and hit a driving

layup as he was fouled by

Pervis Ellison. The free

throw gave Portland a 95-92

In Orlando, Shaquille

O'Neal scored 10 of his 34

points in a decisive 20-6

fourth quarter run to lead the

Orlando Magic to a 121-99

victory over the Minnesota

Orlando won for the eighth

The loss has the fourth in a

time in its last nine games

row and sixth in seven games

for the Timberwolves.

quarter lead.

1 im Derworves.

overall.

list as coach



Boris Becker of Germany jubilates after his win over Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine in the final of the Hopman Cup (AFP photo)

seeded third in this tourna- later this month. "I am playment, won 6-3 6-4 to meet, ing well ..." unseeded Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch in the final

The hard-hitting American said before the game that he was looking for revenge against Woodforde, who beat him at the Paris Indoor tournament last November.

"It's a good feeling being in the final," said Courier, who is preparing for the Australian Open in Melbourne

Anfernee Hardaway

scored 18 points and Nick

Anderson had 16 for the

At New Jersey, Larry Johnson scored 21 points to

lead six players in double

figures as the Charlotte Hor-

nets held on for an 89-88

victory over the New Jersey Nets after blowing a 19-point

Alonzo Mourning added

19 points and 12 rebounds

and Scott Burrell contributed

13 points for the Hornets.

who won their fourth straight

first-quarter lead.

In the other semifinal Saturday Boetsch, ranked 53 in the world, beat fourth seed Richard Krajicek 7-6 6-2. Boetsch was down a set point before the tie-break, but fought back to win it seven points to four from the hardserving Dutchman.

Boetsch has played Courier twice before and lost both times.

Wachter wins SuperG

Germany's Katja Seizinger finished second in 1:25.90 and Heidi Zeller-Baehler of Switzerland finished third in

sort of injection I needed, and I think I'm back on course now," Wachter said. Seizinger, who started ninth, four places ahead of Wachter, appeared to have set an unbeatable time when she came down almost a

Zeller-Baehler. da in December.

HAUS, Austria (R) — Anita Wachter of Austria won a women's world cup supergiant slalom Saturday in a time of one minute 25.78 seconds, according to unofficial results.

1:26.86.

Wachter, who showed an improvement of form towards the end of December after early-season problems with new skis, said a second

second ahead of then leader

But the Austrian made up time with some fine turns in the middle stages of the race. Seizinger won the last Super-G at Lake ousie, Cana-

Jordan Soccer League Chinese lifters

Top 4 remain unchanged; Wihdat face Hussein in 19th week

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

BUDAPEST (R) - Life AMMAN - Although suspensions have been slapped on two Chinese standings remained mostly unchanged after the conweightlifting world chamclusion of the 18th week of pions in the latest sporting the First Division Soccer disgrace to hit the country. Championship, Al. "A total of two lifters Wibdat's lead was narwere found to have taken rowed down to one point drugs in Istanbul," said International Weightlifting following their surprising 0-

0 draw with newcomers

banned

for life

Federation (IWF) chief

used performance-

enhancing substances at the

Turkey-hosted cham-

Ajan said both lifters

used the anabolic steroid

dehydrotestosterone - the

drug found in all 11

Chinese competitors strip-

ped of Asian Games med-

Ajan said he had met

members of the Chinese

Olympic Committee and

China's Weightlifting Fed-

eration in Atlanta, Geor-

gia, on December 17 where he informed them of the

IWF decision. They

accepted the "severe

they give maximum sup-

port to the IWF's anti-drug

ful because this was the

first case that women

weightlifters were tested

Li set a world record and

won the snatch gold medal in the over 83 kg class in

Istanbul. Wang shared the

Seven swimmers and

four other Chinese were

suspended by their national

and international federa-

tions for drug use at the

Hiroshima Asian Games in

China has denounced

worldwide criticism that it

encourages or at least toler-

ates what appears to be

increasingly widespread use of banned drugs.

tain that any misde-

meanours are the acts of

Chinese officials main-

positive," Ajan said.

54 kg crown.

October.

"It was particularly pain-

policies," Ajan added.

They assured me that

punishment," he said.

als in December.

pionships in November.

Tamas Ajan Friday, "Both Kufrsoum. were women and were Al Ramtha remained in second placed after a 3-0 Chinese. We banned both girls from weightlifting for life." win over Al Karmel, while Al Hussein who lost the lead after two consecutive Ajan did not name them but a Chinese sports official confirmed earlier that Li defeats remained third but are only two points behind the leaders after a 4-1 win Dan and Wang Sheng had

over Al Ahli. The battle heated up near the relegation zone as Al Arabi scored a vital 5-1 victory over Al Jeel and raised their overall points to 17 while Al Qadissieh remained among the last four with 14 points after a 2-0 loss to titleholders Al Faisali.

Al Jazireh regained fifth placed after a 1-0 win over Shabab Al Hussein.

Here's a roundup of the 18th week:

 ★ Al Wihdat/Kufrsoum: Although Al Wihdat had their eyes set on victory to take a more secure lead atop the 12-team standings, Kufrsoum were more than happy with the draw against one of the country's top teams.

Seventh-placed Kufrsoum are the only newcomers not among the relegationthreatened last four. They will next face eighth-placed Al Arabi in a crucial match that will somewhat secure a halfway standing for the win-

☆ Al Hussein/Al Ahli: Although Al Hussein lost some early scoring chances, Aref Hussein made up for that in the second half. He netted the first goal in the 47th minute, but Al Ahli equalised a minute later.

Al Hussein's promising Ra'ed Rababa'h gave his team the lead in the 59th minute. And ace striker Hussein added the third and fourth goals in the 61st and 88th minute.

Al Hussein wili next have a decisive match against leaders Al Wihdat.

☆ Al Faisali/al Qadissieh: Although Al Faisali were the better team throughout the Al Ahli. match, Al Qadissieh's Ihsan Sharif miscalculated a shot and awarded Al Faisalí their first goal.

Star striker Jiryes Tadros netted Al Faisali's second

goal in the 85th minute. Al Qadissieh who will next play Al Karmel, are now in a difficult situation and must win their remaining matches to avoid relegation.

☆ Al Ramtha/Al Karmel: Al Karmel were handed another defeat at Al Ramtha remained in second place behind Al Wihdat.

Bilal Al Lahham opened scoring for Al Ramtha in the 67th minute. Khaled Al Aq-qouri added the second and third goals in the 80th and 89th minutes.

Al Ramtha will next face

Al Arabi/Al Jeel: Al Arabi improved their scoring record and moved away from the last four when they crushed last-placed Al Jeel 5-1.

Al Jeel's Thae'r Abu Sha'ireh scored the match's first goal in the 24th minute. but his seam was stunned by five goals by Ahmad Subh 41st, Bassam Khasawneh 65th, Ayman Al Omari 67th and 77th, Ra'fat Fahoum

Murad Oweineh lost a penalty shot for his team in the 20th minute, Riyad Azmi scored the winning goal in the 32nd minute moving Al Jazireh back to fifth place before they play Al Jeel in the upcoming week.

Standings after 18th week

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Wihdat	18	12	6		24	3	30
Ramtha	18	12	5	1	38	10	29
Hussein	18	13	2	3	46	19	28
Faisali	18	9	7	2	30	õ	25
Jazireh	18	8	5	5	22	18	21
Ahli	18	7	5	6	24	24	19
Kufrsoum	18	8	2	Š	27	28	18
Arabi	18	6	5	7	23	27	17
Qadissieh	18	4	6	8	18	24	14
Shabab Al Hussein	18	1	4	13	17	38	6
Karmel	18	ĩ	4	13	12	44	6
Jeel	18	ī	i	16	11	40	3

NEEDED

A Sri Lankan man looking for job. Valid residence permit, 6 years experience, kitchen and garden work

Pls. cail Tel: 690249

SUMMER WILL COME SOON German made, high quality and portable

SWIMMING-POOL

Type: KRUELLAND, round diam. 4 mtr., 1.25 mtr deep, incl. all extras as filter/pump, stainless steel ladder, floodlights, cleaning and water-testing equipment, cover, used just for one summer, orig. price JD5.200

because of move abroad: JD2,600 Telephone: 840425

ANNOUNCEMENT

Needed, a female principal for the "El-Dhia Kindergarten for the Blind" belonging to the Friendship Society for the Blind - Amman. Criteria for application:

University degree in Special Education or Child Education or equivalent. Training and practical experience in the education

of the blind. Applications with C.V., photograph and recommendations to be sent to:

The Director Holy Land Institute for the Deaf P.O. Box 15 Salt.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Also needed is accommodation for the "El-Dhia Kindergarten for the Blind" Requirements: minimum 5 rooms, toilet facilities, kitchen, good-size outside yard and private entr-Good access by public transportation. Please call:

Amman.

The Friendship Society for the Blind Tel: 884855



The Starting of the following Italian Classes:

* Sunday - Tuesday - Thursday

First and Second Level will start on Sunday ' Saturday - Monday - Wednesday

First level will start on Saturday 14/1/1995 Classes are from 4-6 or 6-8 p.m.

Fees: 73 J.D. for two months and a half, 3 days a week, 2 hours a day

Information & Registration at the Italian Language Centre Shmeisani near Birds' Garden Tel: 669348

Derrick Coleman scored 23 nied western accusations of place in a giant slalom in Alta of his 28 points in the second a state-sponsored doping Badia and fourth place in half to rally New Jersey, Meribel had boosted her conwhich played without all-star fidence. guard Kenny Anderson be-"The last results were a cause of the flu.

National Equipment & Technical Services

YOUR local INTERNET connection

Cali 619870

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN EXTENDING THE SUBMISSION AND

OPENING DATE 06/01/1995 Date:

Loan No.: KfW/L&G Further to the announcement published in the local news papers and NFA, the new

date set for bid submission and opening for the hereinafter listed bids is not later than 1330 hours, Jordan local time, on Saturday 28 January, 1995 instead of not later than 1330 hours, Jordan local time, on Tuesday 10 January, 1995. Other terms and conditions of the first announcement shall remain as they were.

L		
83/94/WM/L	1/2" Water Meters	
84/94/HSP/L	Horizontal and Submersible Pumps	
85/94/HGV/L	Dump Trucks, Flat Beds, Cranes and Water Tankers	
86/94/TBP/L	Plumbing Tools, Bearings and Spare Parts	
87/94/SM/G	Source Water Meters	
88/94/VLV/G	Valves	
89/94/SP/G	Submersible Pumps	
90/94/4WD/G	Off-Roads 4WDVehicles	
91/94/AW/G	Air Compressors and Welding Machines	
92/94/WEL/G	Well Control Tools and Equipment	
Eng. Koussai Q	uteishat	

Secretary General Water Authority

Contract No. | Material to be Supplied

FOR SALE

1986 BMW 316, metallic blue, four doors,

RESULTS

Portland 95, Boston 92

Charlotte 89, New Jersey 88

Orlando 121, Minnesota 99

Atlanta 112, Washington 90 New York 103, Cleveland 93

Seattle 108, Chicago 101

Dallas 103, Indiana 92

L.A. Lakers 196, Milwaukee 98

with A/C. 58,000 km, Price JD12,000 Please call Abed at Tel: 672013

MISSING DOG

A female American dog black & white colour, missing for the past 4 days. Anyone who comes across or its whereabouts should contact Tel: 821420 from 4 p.m.

every night for a handsome reward.

"JOB VACANCY"

employ a

"SALES MANAGER" in its liaison office in Amman. Suitable

candidate should meet the following qualification.

★ Good experience & connections in Jorda-

★ Should have his own car with valid driving licence. Qualified applicants should send their de-

> P.O. Box: 930228 Amman 11193 - Jordan

A leading Korean trading company seeks to

☆ Good command of English & Arabic. nian markets for textiles & general merchan-

tailed C.V. with recent photo to:

Hyosung Corporation

12 News

Sharaa urges Iran to support Syria in Mideast peace talks

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faronq Al Sharaa on Saturday urged Iran and other Islamic states to support his country's stand in the Middle East peace process and its bid to regain territories seized by Israel.

Earlier he vowed that Iranian-backed guerrillas would keep up their attacks on Israeli troops in South Lebanon, the official agency IRNA said.

He told Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsaniani in talks here that Damascus "insists on restoring its full rights and freeing its lands occupied by Israel."

"We hope that Arab and Islamic countries would support Syria in its endeavour, he was quoted as saying in a statement sent from the president's office.

He said that Syria's "position is unchanged" in its talks with Israel which have been suspended since February and have deadlocked over the scope and timetable of an Israeli pullout from the strategic Golan Heights.

Mr. Sharaa, who arrived here Friday and met with his counterpart Ali Akbar wing of the pro-Iranian Hiz-

League

regrets

Iranian

island

CAIRO (Agencies) -

The Arab League said

on Saturday it regret-

ted Iran's inauguration

of a courthouse on the

Gulf island of Abu

Musa, which is at the

centre of a territorial

row with the United

Arab Emirates (UAE).

The 22-nation league

renewed its call to Iran

to take the dispute to

the International Court

of Justice for arbitra-

tion is extremely re-

grettable because it

embodies the illegal

aggression Iran under-

took in 1971 by occupy-

ing the three islands

that belong to the Emi-

rates," Adnan Omran,

assistant secretary-

general of the Arab

League, told reporters.

courthouse on Abu

Musa on Friday,

strengthening the pre-

sence of its state in-

stitutions on the Gulf island, which it has

been running jointly

with UAE member

Sharjah under a 1971

Iran has said its

sovereignty over Abu

Musa and Greater and

Lesser Tunbs is non-

negotiable and any

"misunderstandings"

should be discussed

Mr. Omran said Iran's

latest action was in opposition to "construc-

tive efforts" by the UAE and the Arab League to

find a solution to "end the

Iranian occupation of the

Iran to accept going to the

International Court of

Justice with the aim of

solving the dispute over

the three islands in a legal

Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi inau-

gurated the tribunal on

Abu Musa on Friday in a

ceremony attended by

local officials.
Iranian authorities said last

month that a revolutionary

court would also be set up

on the southern Gulf is-

land as part of efforts to

reform the country's pen-

Revolutionary courts

were created after the

1979 Islamic revolution to

Abu Musa, Greater

Tunb and Lesser Tunb

were all taken over by

Tehran in 1971 after the

withdrawal of British

troops from the Gulf.

try major offences.

Iranian sources said

way," he added.

"We renew the call to

deal.

bilaterally.

Arab islands."

Iran inaugurated the

"The new Iranian ac-

court on

Arab

Velayati, also ruled out any peace with the Jewish state "without the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon," IRNA added.
He vowed the Lebanese

istance would "keep up its fight against the aggressor' as long as a border strip in the south of the country remained occupied.

"Referring to the Islamic resistance in South Lebanon, Sharaa said that the struggle against usurpers would continue as long as the Lebanese soil was under the Zionist occupation," IRNA said. Syria, which maintains

thirds of Lebanon, is the country's main power broker. IRNA said Mr. Velayati "underlined the role that the Islamic resistance played in South Lebanon and re-

35,000 troops across two

marked that if Muslims sought to restore their rights they should adhere to Islamic principles." Israeli troops in South Lebanon have come under

increasing attacks by the Islamic Resistance, the military

CAIRO (AFP) — U.S. De-

fence Secretary William Per-

ry vowed here Saturday that his country would keep up its

level of military aid to Egypt

in 1996, despite the peace process in the Middle East.

Mubarak that President (Bill)

Clinton has put into his

budget that he is going to

submit to Congress in a few

weeks the same level of aid

for the coming fiscali yeare,

he said after talks with

Egypt's leader.
"Our president has already

made that commitment," Mr.

Perry told journalists at the

start of a tour of Egypt and

Israel.
"I believe we will be suc-

cessful in maintaining the aid

level." Mr. Perry said,

adding that he and Secertary

of State Warren Christopher

were "committed to defend it

and to defend it vigourously

Washington provides \$1.3

Mr. Perry stressed "the

billion in annual military aid

strong relationship between Egypt and the United

States." The main aim of his

visit was "strengthening and

deepening the cooperative

defence relationship," he

The secretary praised Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab state to sign a

peace treaty with Israel, for

itse efforts to secure peace in

in the Congress.

to Cairo.

"I told President (Hosni)

bollah (Party of God) group. Hizbollah guerrillas have kil-led 21 Israeli soldiers and wounded scores during 1994.

Israel has responded by mounting repeated attacks on Hizbollah strongholds in South Lebanon.

The Iranian-backed movement Hizbollah spearheads anti-Israeli attacks in Lebanon, where around 30,000 Syrian troops are deployed. The Syrian minister, who

handed a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to Mr. Rafsanjani, called for "friendly, deep-rooted" relations and pledged total "solidarity"

Mr. Rafsanjani praised Syria for "spearheading a fight against the Zionist regime, for insisting on its rightful positions and not succumbing to Israel's expan-

"Iran hopes for a growing support from all Islamic countries notably the Arabs for the rights of the Palestinians and other countries in the fight against the Israeli aggressors," Mr. Rafsanjani

the Middle East, saying it had

"played a bold and important

Asked why military aid was

still running high at a time

when peace was taking shape

in the region, he recalled the

crisis in October after an

Iraqi troop buildup near the

Kuwaiti border and U.S.

The crisis was resolved.

after the Iraqis pulled back, "without the deployment of Egyptian forces but it could

very well have required a

deployment of Egyptian forces had that turned into a

Last week's summit in

Syrian President Hafez

Assad and Saudi King

Egypt between Mr. Mubar-

Fahd also showed Cairo was

continuing efforts to push the

peace process forward," he

ity and moderation in the

Middle East," the defence

tionship, Mr. Mubarak ack-

nowledged on Jan. 1 that the

two countries had problems.

"There are certain differ-

ences but that is usual be-

tween states and friends," he

Mr. Mubarak blamed U.S.

press reports which charged

Egypt had busted U.N. sanc-

tions imposed on neighbour-

the December 1988 Locker-

Despite the strong rela-

"Egypt is a source of stabil-

forces were deployed.

war." he said.

secretary added.

the Middle East peace process and the summit in the Egyptian city of Alexandria between Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia in late Decem-

Arab diplomats said the main aim of Mr. Sharaa's visit was to brief Iran on the results of the summit.

"Syria is unhappy with the latest peace overtures coming from certain Arab states in the Gulf, so it is trying to play the cards of Iran, Egypt and even Iraq to pressure the monarchs not to act solo," one diplomat said.

Mr. Sharaa criticised "certain Arab states" for their "solitary march" to make "bilateral peace with Israel and opening their door" to the Jewish state.

While "Muslim countries, notably Iran and Syria, are constantly targetted by the enemy," Israel and "its allies are trying to take advantage of the lack of unity in the Islamic World," he said. Israel is "trying hard to expand its influence in the region," said the Syrian fore-

bie plane bombing.
During the Saudi-

Egyptian-Syrian summit,

Egypt's press hit back by

accusing Washington of trying to sideline Cairo and

ensure Israeli domination of

his Egyptian counterpart,

General Mohammad Hussein

Tantawi, for talks on assemb-

ling M1-A1 tanks in Egypt.

On Sunday, he is to travel on

to Israel, before heading for

On Egypt's campaign to

make Israel join the nuclear

Non-Proliferation Treaty, he

said: "The U.S. regards the

extension of the nuclear Non-

Proliferation Treaty as im-

portant not just for the region

Turning to U.S. newspaper

reports that Israel was trans-

ferring U.S. defence technol-

ogy to China, Mr. Perry said:

when I am in Israel. But now

I cannot confirm those re-

The Los Angeles Times

reported that Israel helped

China develop and produce a

new fighter jet with technolo-

gy developed for the Lavi jet

fighter, a U.S.-Israeli project

"If it turns out to be accu-

rate, we will have some diffi-

cult words with the Israeli government," the defence

secretary said earlier this

abandoned in 1987.

do plan to discuss them

but for the whole world.

Pakistan and India.

Mr. Perry was also to meet

the Middle East.

The two leaders discussed

Perry assures Egypt of aid



U.N. INVITATION: His Majesty King Hus- issues such as poverty and unemploysein on Saturday received an invitation ment, was delivered to the King by Ali from United Nations Secretary General Atiqa, a representative of the U.N. secret-

Western diplomats ignore Algerian group's ultimatum

PARIS (R) — Western diplomats in Algeria on Saturday apparently ignored an Algerian group's death threat as a deadline for them to leave the country or face death

France and Britain said their embassies in Algiers were open as usual and Germany has said it will not close its mission.

The Algerian government, casting doubts on the authenticity of the threat, said diplomats were well protected. Its envoy to Bonn, Mohammad Hanache, praised the decision to keep embassies open and not give in to threats as

'sensible and courageous." There were no reports of attacks on foreigners but in a grim reminder of the threeyear violence that has killed up to 30,000 people in the country, an Algerian radio journalist died in hospital of buliet wounds suffered on

Ali Aboud, shot in an Algiers suburb, was the 29th Algerian journalist killed by suspected Islamic guerrillas. Aboud, 38, the deputy edi-

tor of the Arabic-language "Chaine I" radio network, was attacked in Birkhadem, on the outskirts of Algiers, a colleague at his radio station said. He died at a military hospital in 'Ain Naadja. In another attack Friday,

suspected Islamic militants country's largest Frenchlanguage daily. Zineddine Aliou Salah, 35, of the French-language daily Liberte, was killed, near his house in the Khazrouma neighborhood of Algiers, his newspaper said.

The two were the 28th and 29th Algerian journalists killed by Islamic militants since May 1992, according to a count by the French indepen- for its diplomatic and consu-

dent organisation Reporters Without Borders, which estimated that another 200 had fled their country.

Out of those, some 25 journalists have been killed since May 1993. Among them, Said Mek-

bel, the editor of the Frenchlanguage Le Matin daily, was shot dead in Algiers on Dec. 3 last year in an attack claimed by the radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

The threat against Western embassies, purported to come from the GIA, Algeria's most violent rebel organisation, said diplomats from several Western countries including Britain, France, Germany and the United States would be killed in cold blood if they had not left Algeria by

Most Western embassies have cut down their staff in the face of worsening civil strife which developed after the Algerian government cancelled 1992 elections that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Countries such as Austria, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Denmark had closed down their missions before the latest threat.

A spokeswoman for the German foreign ministry said security experts had met on Friday in Paris to coordinate security between European Union countries represented She said they traded in-

formation but took no deci-Paris, the former colonial

power and the current president of the EU, had no comment. The foreign ministry would not even confirm the meeting had taken place.

The French government has said it would send experts to Algiers to review security

following the Dec. 24 hijacking of a French airliner.

companies to suspend sea and air links with Algeria until security is tightened.

Diplomatic sources said one possible solution would be to gather Western diplomats into a single compound. Several embassies have already brought in their own military to replace Algerian security guards for fear they would be infiltrated by guer-

Abdul Rahman Meziane-Cherif dismissed the threat and said embassies were well protected.

"I don't think it important or useful ... to rack our brains too much about this issue,' he told reporters. "Algeria long ago took the necessary measures to guarantee the property and security of diplomatic personnel.'

Casting doubts on the authenticity of the threat which German unlike previous GIA statements, he said it could have come from "manipulators who don't belong to terrorist groups" or "people out

cial and military support.

Butros Ghali to participate in a U.N. ary general, at a meeting held at the Royal Social Summit which will be held in Court (see photo). The meeting was Copenhagen March 6-12. The invitation attended by His Royal Highness Prince to the conference, which will discuss Hamzeh Ben Al Husseln (Petra photo)

lar staff and airport security

Paris has ordered French

Algerian Interior Minister

French secret services say they fear more attacks on French targets, in Algeria or abroad, after French police killed the four GIA hijackers

plane to Marseille. France is the prime foreign target of Islamists who accuse it of propping up the Algerian government with finan-

Of 76 foreigners killed in Algeria since the GIA ordered foreigners out of the country over a year ago, 26, were French — four of them members of the embassy or consulate staff.

U.N. fears spread of Somalia fighting

MOGADISHU (Agencies) U.N. forces preparing their evacuation from Somalia fear being caught up in fighting between rival militias in the capital Mogadishu, a U.N. official said on Saturday after an attack on a Pakistani convoy.

The official, who asked not to be named, expressed concern for the safety of staff working in the U.N.-controlled sea- and airport which militia groups are fighting each other for.
"If shells land in these areas, all the staff will be

evacuated to Nairobi and we will run away before it is too late," the official told Reu-

A Pakistani escort of 12 vehicles moving between the airport and the seaport was attacked by militiamen late on Friday after a week of heavy clan fighting in the area that killed 26 Somalis and injured about 300.

U.N. military spokesman Major Zubair Chattha said two Pakistanis were wounded in the attack but their condition was stable. Somali sources said two Somalis

were also wounded. The incident occurred near the green line which divides Mogadishu into the fiefdoms of warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed and self-declared President Ali Mahdi Moham-

The U.N. has a base in the fortified and heavily-guarded university compound in south Mogadishu but is relocating to areas near the seaport and airport in mid-January before a total pullout in March.

U.N. officials fear any fresh clan fighting would hamper the withdrawal of the 9,000 U.N. troops still in Somalia, but say they do not expect the force to be deliberately attacked.

Clan leaders signed a ceasefire agreement on Wednesday but sporadic fighting has persisted between Mr. Ali Mahdi's Abgal militia and Murusade militia allied to General Aideed.

The strength of the pact is in doubt as neither Mr. Ali Mahdi nor Murusade militia chief Mohammad Kanyare Afrah attended the signing. Mr. Afrah launched a bitter attack on Mr. Ali Mahdi Friday afternoon, accusing him of hampering the efforts by elders to pacify the subclans and of being an "agent" of late dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, who died in

Nigeria on Monday. North Mogadishu radio claimed Friday that the ceasefire agreement included the implementation of the harsh Muslim Sharia law in Bermuda, but Mr. Afrah said: "It is too difficult to implement Sharia law or any other kind of justice without a central authority."

He accused Mr. Ali Mahdi of "mixing politics with reli-gion for his own interest." Mr. Ali Mahdi introduced Sharia law in north Mogadishu last year, but it is not in

effect in the south. He described the fighting in south Mogadishu as being between militias of his own Somali Salvation Alliance and Gen. Aideed's Somali National Alliance.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former Sudanese commissioner jailed

KHARTOUM (R) - A Sudanese court on Saturday sentenced a former provincial commissioner to seven years in jail and fined him 34 million Sudanese pounds (\$83,000) for embezzlement. Ali Abdullah Al Neheila was charged with misappropriating some 37 million pounds (\$90,000) when he was commissioner of Galabat province in eastern Sudan earlier this year. Mr. Nebeila, who denied the charges, was the first senior official to serve under the government of Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir to be convicted of corruption.

Man goes on holiday with stolen \$150,000

KUWAIT (R) — An Indian security man working for a money delivery firm in Kuwait stole 46,000 dinars (\$153,800) which he was supposed to deposit in the bank and then confessed to the crime by fax, a newspaper reported on Saturday. The Arab Times said the employee swapped the money, which belonged to the Ministry of Communications, for blank paper then went on annual leave. After arriving in India he "briefed the company by fax on the details of the crime he had committed," the

Sudan denies expelling Eritrean refugees

KHARTOUM (R) - Sudan on Saturday denied accusa tions by Eritrea that it had mistreated and expelled Eritrean refugees. Ihsan Al Ghabshawi, Sudan's commissioner for refugees, was quoted by the official news agency SUNA as saying that voluntary repatriation of refugees was going ahead as agreed with the United Nations and representatives from Eritrea. Sudan has over one million refugees on its territory, most from Eritrea and Ethiopia. Last month Sudan said that only 5,000 Eritreans had returned under the voluntary programme. Eritrea severed diplomatic ties with Sudan in December, accusing Khartourn of training fundamentalist rebels and Eritrean insur-

Policeman shot by suspected Islamist in Egypt

ASSIUT (R) - A suspected Muslim militant shot and wounded a police officer who was chasing him in southern Egypt on Saturday, security sources said. They said the gunman shot Mostafa Yusef Hamdi in the thigh during a chase near the southern town of Samalout in Minya province and escaped. Police officials in Minya said the policeman was in good condition. They believe the gunman is a member of the militant organisation Gamaa Al

Islamiyah, which targets policemen in the south as part of its campaign to overthrow the Egyptian government and set up a strict Islamic state. The Gamaa shot dead 12. people, including nine policemen, in southern Egypt in the first two days of this year.

World Muslim meeting starts in Bangladesh

TONGI, Bangladesh (AFP) — Hundreds of thousands of Muslims poured into this small industrial town Saturday as the Biswa Ijtema — the World Muslim Congregation — got under way. The three-day event, the second in importance in the Islamic religion after the Haj in Mecca, was expected to bring together 1.5 million Muslims, said the organisers, the Tablig Jamaat. They said the number of devotres was increasing each year. "There are participants from 11 least 55 countries, including from Europe, the United States and Middle East," said one organiser in Tongi, 15 kilometres north of the capital Dhaka. Bangladeshi President Abdul Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed greeted the faithful in separate statements, wishing success to the congrega-tion. They urged the participants to pray for a united, strong and peaceful Islamic World. More than 86 per cent of Bangladesh's 110 million people are Muslims.

50-year-old gives birth to 17th child

TEHRAN (R) - A 50-year-old Iranian woman has been giving birth to a baby a year for the past 18 years, the franian newspaper Kar-va-Karegar reported on Saturday. It said the woman was in good health and happy about the delivery of her 17th child, just as her oldest son turned 18 and was ready for military service. "Obviously the couple has done nothing to prevent pregnancy," the paper said.

Geagea meets new lawyers in court

BEIRUT (AFP) - Former Christian warlord Samir Geagea met his court-appointed team of lawyers for the first time Saturday as a trial into a church bombing resumed here. Judge Philippe Khairallah adjourned the hearing for 30 minutes to allow the meeting to take place during which Mr. Geagea delivered "information vitally important for the defence," the lawyers said. But the court then refused a defence request for a 48-hour adjournment to enable them to hold further talks and began to read out charges against Mr. Geagea and witness statements. Mr. Geagea is accused of killing Christian leader Dany Chamonn and his family in 1990 and of bombing a church last February in an attack which killed 11 people and wounded more than 50 others. The charges have been split into two separate trials, and the hearing into the murder of Chamoun resumed Friday.

Man heid after sexually abusing boy on let

NEW YORK (R) — Police arrested a 51-year-old man at John F. Kennedy Airport after a teenaged boy claimed the man sodomised and sexually abused him on a flight from Argentina. The boy said he was asleep on an Acro-lineas Argentinas Airbus A-310 when Gmillermo Delarosa of New York City, alleged-ly sexually abused him about three hours into the fight from Buenos Aires, according to John Kampfe, a port authority spokesman said. The name of the 16-year-old boy was not released. "A fist fight broke out on the plane when the teenager tried to fend off Delarosa's alleged assaults," the spokesman added. Another port authority mokesman Tom Midity spokesman, Tom Mid-diemiss, said the investigation found that the man "had performed oral sex on the boy... the fight resulted when the boy woke up and started punching the man." Police were waiting for the jet when it landed at 8:30 a.m. EST (1330 GMT) after they were alerted by the JFK tower, he said. Mr. Delarosa was handed over to FBI agents who arrested him, Mr. Kampfe said. Mr. Delarosa who is charged with sexual abuse, pleaded not guilty in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn late Friday. He was released on bail and faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted a government spokeswoman

Former diplomat fined for shoplighting

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina (AFP) — A former top U.S. diplomat in Austria pleaded guilty here Friday to stealing goods worth \$21 from a drugstore in Chapel Hill. Felix Bloch, former number two at the U.S. embassy in Vienna, was given a suspended 30-day prison sentence and fined \$100. Mr. Bloch shot to international priminence in 1989 when as inence in 1989 when, as a 5-year-old career diplomat, he became the subject of an intensive FBI investigation into allegations that he had spied for the Soviet Union while serving as deputy chief na from 1983 to 1987. He strenuously denied passing classified information to the Russians however, and the U.S. government eventually decided there was insufficient evidence to indict him on espionage charges. He was partment in November 1990 for allegedly making "deliberate false statements or misrepresentations to the FBI" (Federal Bureau of Investigation).

Wall Street Journal launches sports page

NEW YORK (AFP) -- The authoritative daily Wall Street Journal launched a new weekly sports page that was expected to lead to a new weekend section on leisure. The new pages were designed to give an added attraction to the newspaper, known for its business and economic news, said weekend editor Lee Lascaze. As of February, a new travel page was to be inserted in the Friday edition as the second step towards publishing the full leisure section. The Wall Street Journal has published a weekly sports page during the Olympic Games in the past two years and during the 1994 World Cup which Mr. Lascaze said received a positive response

Thai police raid Patpong Bar

BANGKOK (AFP) - Thai police raided a bar in Bang-kok's Patpong nightlife district and arrested 20 female dancers, including four below the legal age of 18, a social worker said Saturday. The girls, three aged 17 and one 15, were turned over to the Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights (CPCR), a child-abuse watch group, CPCR's Vasana Kaonopparatna told AFP, adding that the girls said they had voluntarily worked at the bar for quite some time. Ten policemen and several workers posing as patrons Thursday visited the Peuthousa Bar and found it was staging illegal sex shows. Police earlier had received an anonymous letter. saying the bar employed

